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# 神無月紅

イラスト ◆ 夕薙

# レジェンド

## [legend]

Ren Saeki, an ordinary boy living in rural Tohoku region, has died. All seems to be over... Yet, he wakes up, to a vision full of glimmering white, with a glowing sphere, floating right in front. The sphere claims to be, an magician from another dimension, in search of a heir to pass on the witchcraft it has perfected. With the magical powers and a new physical existence, Relji's adventure in Elgin, the magical world begins...





# Legend

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# Chapter 1

The intense midsummer sun glared down. Saeki Reiji wiped the sweat off his brow as he waited with his bicycle at a red light.

「It's hot, or should I say, it's already hot.」

He bitterly scowled at the sun, as cicadas chirped in the background. Despite the fact that it was only just past 10AM, the temperature had already exceeded 30°C. According to the TV, other areas reaching 40°C wasn't uncommon. But for Reiji, who lived in Tohoku's countryside, 30°C was hard.

「In this heat, swimming in the river would be good.」

The next few lines will describe how remote Reiji's area was. It was a place where you could barely get cellphone reception. It took more than an hour by bicycle to get to the nearest town from home.

If you think of a second year high school student's summer vacation, it's usually busy with exam study. But Reiji was not worried about that at all. Anyway, few students in Reiji's high school go on to higher education, most find jobs in the local area.

Because of this, Reiji was enjoying the long vacation of his second year in high school, summer vacation retaining its original meaning. Of course homework was given, but he had spent the first few days of summer vacation finishing that to enjoy the rest of the break.

In that time, he received news that a new fiction book he had been looking forward to could be found at a bookstore. Because of that, he had come to town in this hot weather.

「However, will get a little cooler.....or should I ask Father or Mother to come pick me with the car?」

While grumbling, he waved his T-shirt around to let out the hot air. Even with that said, with this temperature, it's nothing more than a drop in the bucket.

Wiping the sweat that had come out again in the few minutes that he had

waited for the red light, he directed his line of sight to the surroundings.

Several decades ago this place may have been crowded, now over 60% of shops have closed. Even if he said that many students would find local employment after high school, the number of students has steadily decreased along with the number of children.

In fact, some houses near Reiji's place had already started demolition.

「I wonder if the depopulation will continue.」

Though he said that, it was pointless for him to consider as there wasn't a particular solution.

At the moment he was thinking about that.『It's Dangerous, Look Out!』A voice shouted out loudly.

He reflexively turned his gaze at that direction, a steel frame about 5m away entered his vision.....it became the last scene Reiji saw in the world.

「Ah.....finally.....」

Hearing a voice, Reiji woke up suddenly. Nothing but white space could be seen in the surroundings. It seemed to continue endlessly.

「.....Where is this?」

The steel frame definitely crushed him.....he calmly made this strange judgement, he gave a cry as he remembered the moment before before his death.

「I seems you've woken up, my successor candidate.」

Turning his consciousness to the voice, a presence automatically came into view.

「A glowing orb?」

Yes, there was a glowing orb about 30cm away from him. As it flickered, a voice came from it.

「I'm a glowing orb, but you are a glowing orb as well, do you understand what I'm saying?」

Listening to the words of the glowing orb, he noticed for the first time that his

body was also a glowing orb. He certainly didn't have any hands or feet, he couldn't sense that he had eyes or ears either. Yet why could he see and hear.

「What happened?」

「Quiet down, successor candidate. ....No, you aren't confused? As expected of my successor candidate.」

「Successor? Candidate?」

「Hmm. I called your soul to me the moment before it disappeared.」

Reiji thought about the scene where the steel frame was about to hit him before thinking about what the glowing orb said. Certainly, it was unlikely that he had survived the situation.

「That's right. I certainly.....should be dead. So here is the so-called afterlife?」

「No. This is a kind of spirit world between two worlds. I was using my art in search of a successor, and you were caught in it.」

So said the glowing orb in a level tone. Reiji was surprised.

「Is it, that? You interfered with the law of causality and I got killed?」

In the recent novels, comics, movies and games that Reiji enjoyed, it was a familiar development. ....However, he wasn't happy that it had happened to himself.

But in front of him, the glowing orb emitted a voice again while flickering.

「No. My art works when the soul of a person who has the qualifications to be my successor is dying, it is an art that only temporarily moves a person to this spirit world before heading to the afterlife.」

Listening to those words, Reiji's mood became somewhat lighter. If the contents of what this glowing orb had said was true, his death had nothing to do with the glowing orb.....However, that was only if the contents were true.

It was a stranger that he had met for the first time.....it was not possible to confirm if the story of the strange glowing orb was true.

With that said, they couldn't remain like this forever and so Reiji prompted the continuation of the previous point.

「Please continue.」

「Hmm. As I said before, I was trying to invoke an art to find an existence worthy of becoming my successor. And thus you have appeared. Therefore you are a successor candidate.」

「I was wondering about it from a while ago, but successor of what?」

「Successor of a magic that is on the brink of disappearing, the successor to the magic called Magic Beast Art.」

The voice muttered somewhat sadly, as the glowing orb flickered.

「When I brought you here, I roughly read your memories. My world is different from your world, there is something called magic. I am a magician with powerful magic power and magic. People in my organization were the same. In my organization, we created what is called the Magic Beast Art.」

「Since your organization invented it, isn't its disappearance a major thing?」

「I won't deny it. The prerequisites for this magic is to have a large magic power, because of this, it was difficult for anyone outside of my organization to learn it.」

「Do I have.....a large amount of magic power?」

Since a large magic power is a prerequisite for the Magic Beast Art, if he didn't have a large amount of magic power, he wouldn't even be considered as a successor. That was what Reiji thought, but the answer from the glowing orb was outside of his expectations.

「You do. To be more precise, a person with more magic power than you probably doesn't exist in your world.....Why was the existence that can only be called a special mutation like you born in a world without magic. Though it is an interesting question, I do not have the time to solve that mystery. Therefore, I want you to listen and judge for yourself.」

After that, this is what the glowing orb talked about. As mentioned earlier, magic exists in the glowing orb's world. It seemed that the organization which the glowing orb came from was one of best in his world and where top-class magicians were gathered. Though it was only a group of magicians, their war



potential was enough to destroy a single country in several hours. In such a place where the best magicians were gathered, the Magic Beast Art, which the glowing orb had previously mentioned, was created. However, because of the massive magic power requirements to use the Magic Beast Art, nobody outside of the organization was able to master it. The unfortunate impact of all the genius magicians gathering in one era was that not a single talented magician appeared in the next generation. In addition, because of the relation it created, the Magic Beast Art could only be used once in a lifetime, this was a major reason why Magic Beast Art did not spread.

And of course, even genius magicians have a limited lifespan, 1 died, 2 died, and gradually the number of people decreased.

The glowing orb in front of his eyes was the last survivor of the organization, but even his life was nearing its end. He couldn't stand that the Magic Beast Art that they had invented would vanish just like that. However, there wasn't a person in that world that could learn the Magic Beast Art. Then, what about other worlds? With that idea in mind, the glowing orb had used all his magic and life force to execute this last art. He created a spiritual world between worlds and for several hundred years, searched for a soul with the qualifications to inherit the Magic Beast Art. And Reij's soul was caught in it.

「I see. I roughly understand the circumstances.....By the way, what would happen if I refused?」

「There's nothing I can do. You will continue in this state to the afterlife and obtain a new life.」

「Then say, what happens if I inherit the Magic Beast Art?」

「In that case, I will become a catalyst for you and I will bestow a new body to you.」

Hearing the words of the glowing orb, Reiji's glowing orb began to flicker and move.

「.....Wait a moment, I think I missed something you said. Firstly, what do you mean by catalyst? 」

「It's as I said. It's a necessary procedure to pass my knowledge to you.」

「That is, it? Will I get a feeling of being fused with you?」

「No. I'm only a catalyst to the end. My knowledge will be absorbed by you and afterwards I will disappear. However, you won't change when you absorb me. You are the main core, although there will be some changes.」

At the very minimum, his personality would remain intact, Reiji unintentionally gave a a sigh of relief. Moving on to the next question.

「What about the new body?」

「You have lost your own body in your world.」

From the glowing orb's words, he remembered the the steel frame looming in front of his eyes. It was certainly crushed by the steel frame, Reiji was easily able to imagine that his body wasn't in a decent state.

「Well, that is true.」

「Therefore, I will fix your soul to a new body that my organization created, using the best magic and techniques.」

「I understand, a new body.」

「Also, after you inherit the Magic Beast Art, I will cease to exist. Therefore, everything, magic tools and precious materials, that my organization has gathered will be yours.」

「The legacy of several hundred years of the world's most powerful magicians, is it. A perfect start. But, what happens to my magic power with a new body?」

「There won't be any problems. Magic power is provided by the soul, it isn't something that the body possess.」

「In other words, my large magic power will remain unchanged. In that case, why can't you revive yourself with that body?」

「No. My soul and the body have compatibility issues, my soul is already old and worn out. Curiosity and a questioning mind, I have already finished life as a magician as I no longer thirst for the unknown. The knowledge that I pass onto you will tell you. Therefore, I will ask. Do you want to leave, or do you want to inherit our techniques.」

「.....Well, if I refused here, I would just move on to the afterlife. Okay then, I'll be happy to accept your offer.」

The glowing orb flickered in response to Reiji's words.

「Thank you. Then let us begin the fusion.」

「Ah. What should I do?」

「It's not difficult. The preparations have already been set in this space. Fusion will automatically occur if I come in contact with you and you will be reconstructed. Your soul will take hold in your new body and you will awake.」

「I understand.....do it.」

「Mmm. Then I will start the fusion.」

While declaring that, the glowing orb moved close to Reiji.....and they merged.

「Saeki Reji, thank you. I wish you happiness in your new life.」

At the same time the glowing orb said those words, Reiji's consciousness sank into darkness.

# Chapter 2

There was a building deep inside a forest. Although huge trees towered around it, soft sunlight still poured onto the building. There were no signs of life in the building, not even a sign of any living creatures. However, strangely, there was no dust on the floors of the building, it was kept in a very clean state.

And it was in a room, in this building that Reiji.....no, the person that was once called Saeki Reiji, woke up.

「.....Where is this?」

He put his hand on his forehead and thought about it for a few seconds as he looked around. He then nodded as if understanding something.

「I see, I fused with that glowing orb.....ah, I understand now. It certainly was a fusion. I have gained knowledge. And there's no doubt this is still my consciousness」

When Reiji looked at the surroundings, he noticed that he was sleeping in a bed. A magic formation had been drawn on the floor, he guessed that the body had been in stasis until some kind of magic had been used a few minutes ago. He got up and wore the clothes that were beside the bed.

「I say, I wonder what this new body is like?」

According to the knowledge he gained, the glowing orb's name seemed to have been Zepairu Zondo. Reiji found a tub of water and looked at the reflection to see the body Zepairu had prepared.

A boy's face with bright red hair was reflected. It was well shaped and there were no problems with the features, if anything, it could be called beautiful. As for the eye colour, in contrast with the red hair, they were blue. His height was about 165cm, and judging by his face, he looked about 15. As Reiji was 17 in his world, he had grown younger by about 2 years.

「However, based from the knowledge I received from Zepairu, this is an outrageous body.」

According to the knowledge Reiji had recieved from Zepairu.....this body was something that Zepairu and his organization had created with the best of their magic and techniques. Because the organization had disappeared due to the aging of its members, the body had been subjected to treatment that gave it have eternal youth. Of course, it required a certain level or higher of magic power was required to maintain it.

Though the body had eternal youth, it wasn't immortal. Even with the world's best magicians gathered, it seems that it wasn't possible to reach humanity's dream of true immortality. It was likely that this was their substitute. With the body's marvelous recovery power, its physical strength seemed to be considerable high.

「Well, I'll leave those things for the time being.」

The performance of his body was pulled out from his knowledge. After gaining an approximate understanding, he then poured water from a jug on a table into a wooden cup, and drank it in one gulp.

He suddenly noticed something while quenching his throat with the water.

「Come to think of it, this water is also several hundred years old.」

While saying so, he poured water from the jug into his empty cup again. If the words of Zepairu were correct, he had stayed inside the spiritual world at the intersection between worlds and became a glowing orb for several hundred years in order to find a successor to the Magic Beast Art. This body, the water, clothes and the bed must have been prepared by Zepairu before he became a glowing orb. If it was the organization that had gathered the best magicians, then it might be possible to keep everything in a fresh state, the thought came straight to Reiji.

The water was fresh enough that if it was said that it had been drawn from a mountain spring, it would have been believable. Although Reiji lived in the rural Tohoku area and was able to drink fresh water, he felt that there was a difference between heaven and earth when compared with this water. The remainder of the delicious water was finished after he drank a few more cups.

「For now, let's take a look around this building.」



Though he roughly understood where everything was from Zepairu's knowledge, in the end, it was only what Zepairu knew. He wanted to see with his own eyes to make sure.

In the bedroom where Reiji had been sleeping in, there was a bed, table, chairs, a jug and a cup.

「Hmm? This.....」

As he looked around the room, Reiji's eyes caught a picture that had been hung on the wall of the bedroom. 12 people, young and old, were drawn in it.

Earth magic, water magic, wind magic, light magic, darkness magic, space-time magic, void magic, summoning magic, alchemy, numerology and ancient magic. There were 12 people led by Zepairu, who used fire magic. The organization which was said to be able to destroy a country in a few hours was, from the knowledge Zeipairu had given Reiji, made up of the magicians depicted in the painting.

However, Reiji wasn't only fascinated by the painting. It was the clothes worn by the person in the painting who used numerology. It was a black school uniform that every junior and senior high school student in Japan wore, additionally, the person in question had black hair and the eyes and features of a Japanese.

「Takumu Suzuno. Numerology master, is it. No matter how I think about it, he's a fellow countryman.」

From Zepairu's knowledge, the person named Takumu Suzuno had the characteristic of eternal youth. Reiji's improved body was created by incorporating the physical characteristics of Takumu Suzuno and the teaching knowledge of Zepairu.

「In that case, excluding Takumu Suzuno and I, are there any other Japanese who came to this world.....I wonder?」

He thought about it for a few seconds but rejected the idea and shook his head immediately.

Even if other Japanese had come to this world to begin with, Aside from his consciousness, he himself wasn't Japanese anymore. The most he could do

would be to talk with that person and reminiscence.

「If he had eternal youth, then why did he die?」

That was worrisome, he pulled out more knowledge again.

According to his knowledge, it seems that he was poisoned after being caught in the power struggles of the major powers. Although he was able to escape to Zepairu afterwards, detoxification wasn't able to be carried out in time.....that was what had happened.

「Well, I guess it's normal in the world of nobility. That can happen if you get caught in the power struggle.」

On a side note, the numerology that Takumu Suzuno used was an original magic he invented, nobody seemed to be able to use it aside from him. It's ability was to express objects numerically, it wasn't a magic suited for combat.

「I see. It's similar to a game where relationships are appraised and analysed with magic.」

TLN: Think of it as a magic that allow you to tell which things would work better together. For those that read King Shura, think of the MC.

This seems to have been a completely unknown type of magic in this world, but to Reiji, who loved sub cultures, it was a somewhat understandable ability.

「Well then, for the time being, this room is fine. Next is the laboratory.」

With a pattering sound, he walked barefoot and opened the door of the bedroom. Perhaps the building itself was maintained by magic, not a single speck of dust could be found on the floor.

「This.....the time of the building is stopped by space-time magic.」

He advanced through the corridors while checking Zepairu's knowledge. To begin with, this building was used as a base to find a successor to the Magic Beast Art after Zepairu became the last member of the organization and was made quite packed. Because of this, it took him a few minutes to arrive at the laboratory from the bedroom.

On the door of the laboratory『Those who open this door without the qualifications of the Magic Beast Art will be hit by a spell』was written on the

door plate.

「.....At the very least, I can read this worlds characters thanks to the fusion.」

He muttered while looking at the characters on the plate.

According to Zepairu's knowledge, it seems that those who did not have the magical power to become the successor of the Magic Beast Art would be thoroughly incinerated by fire if they tried to open the door.

「It's a pretty extreme security.」

He murmured as he quietly laughed at the sign. Reiji gently reached out to the door knob. Even though he got the endorsement of Zepairu as the successor of the Magic Beast Art, it seemed best to be cautious.

However, his extended hand unceremoniously came in contact with the door knob, and the door opened so easily that he was amazed.

「.....Phew.」

While exhaling in relief, he entered the laboratory.

Compared with the bedroom, the laboratory was much wider. In terms of Reiji's senses the room was about 30 tatamis. In the back half of the room, a huge magic formation was drawn. In the half of the room near the entrance, a variety of equipment and books, assumed to be used for experiments and as references, was left untouched. However, a fine jewelry box was also placed on the table, it was the only one in the vicinity.

TLN: 30 Tatamis =  $\sim 50\text{m}^2$

「Well, its a jewelry box. I wonder what I'll find inside.」

He approached the jewelry box quietly while muttering and opened the lid.

「A bracelet, is it?」

He took it out from the jewelry box. It was a bracelet about 10cm in diameter. There was no doubt that the bracelet had a specific use.

He looked at the mysterious bracelet in his hands. Taking a look it, the bracelet was simple. The jewelry box was a fine piece of work and seems to have been specially crafted, it must be expensive.

A sense of discomfort crossed his head. Why would a simple looking bracelet be kept in such an expensive jewelry box. If you thought about it, it normally wouldn't happen. In other words, there was something to this bracelet. To determine that, Reiji pulled out Zepairu's knowledge to understand.

「Indeed, this thing is worth more than a billion jewels.」

According to Zepairu's knowledge, this bracelet seems to be a kind of item storage. The best space magician and the best alchemist in Zepairu's organization, Liza Flow and Esta Nord, with the cooperation of the numerologist Takumu, had crafted this with the best of their techniques. The magic tools and valuable materials that Zepairu had mentioned were all collected in it. Its name was Misty Ring. ....Called ring even though it was a bracelet? He thought, but it was probably a hobby of the creator of the magic item or something like that.

A smile floated onto Reiji's face, he placed the Misty Ring back into the jewelry box and walked to the magic formation at the back of the room.

「This is the magic formation for the Magic Beast Art, is it.」

Magic Beast Art. Reiji already knew what kind of magic it was when he pulled it from Zepairu's knowledge.

When an incantation was said in the center of the magic formation, it absorbed magic power from the caster. A Magic Beast is produced from the absorbed magic power. In addition, the result cannot be chosen because the caster's magic power determines the mind, personality, tastes, psyche and other various things about the magic beast in a complex manner.

It could be said that the secret principles it operated by were only known by Zepairu's organization. However, the magic beast produced always held a certain characteristic. Namely, there was a magic stone inside the magic beast. If a magic beast devoured another magic stone, it would become stronger, more powerful and evolve faster. Its evolution had an infinite variety depending on the type of magic stone that was devoured. It could possibly be said that there were infinite possibilities. At the end of its evolution, there wasn't an end to it theoretically. But a person who had brought up a magic beast to that stage has not existed.

That is to say, in other words, the Magic Beast Art produces a magic beast

that grows with you.

Still, because the magic power that the magic formation absorbs is so large, a normal magician would have his vitality and life absorbed.

Once again, drawing out the knowledge of the Magic Beast Art, he took a deep breath and stepped into the magic formation.

「There is the contract with Zepairu, and above all I'm interested in this Magic Beast Art. ....Thinking about it though, I thought I would be more careful.....is it the influence of the fusion?」

This might be the changes Zepairu mentioned before the fusion. Reji thought in his head while concentrating on the incantation.

Because the incantation to activate the magic formation was present in Zepairu's knowledge, there was no hesitation.

『We, those who create magic beasts with magic power. Living with the magic beast. I use my magic power, to manifest the magic beast that sleeps within me. It lives with me, it dies with me. Show me it's appearance!』

Putting magical power to words, namely incantations. What an ascetic would have taken several years of practice to do, Reiji, who inherited Zepairu's knowledge, pulled off without any deviation. The amount of magic power Zepairu, a magician at the peak, had put to these words surprised him.

Then, the magic formation that Reiji had stepped into, began to shine, gradually lighting up. The light absorbed the huge magic power that was emitted from Reiji and grew even brighter. However, naturally, even if Reiji was said to have a vast magical power, magic power isn't infinite. The magic formation continued to shine for 5 minutes, 10 minutes, 20 minutes.

「Gueh!」

Eventually his limit approached, he dropped to one knee. The next moment, the part of the magic formation that had been shining gave off a sudden sharp brightness.....then the luminescence of the formation abruptly disappeared.

「I-Is it.....done?」

The magic power in the vicinity had been absorbed to its limits by the magic



formation. Reiji looked around with his light-headed consciousnesses and caught sight of something with a black luster. It was like a cocoon and had a jet black colour. The cocoon started to crack.....the moment broke, Reiji's consciousness sunk into darkness. Just before Reiji fainted, he felt something warm and feathery.『Gururu~』a spoiled voice sounded. And with that sound, he fell to the floor.

# Chapter 3

「Gurururu~」

Hearing this sound, Reiji woke up touching a strange, warm, feathery coat.

「.....Haa?」

He took a look around while rubbing his head. The first thing that entered his eyes was an abundant coat of feathers. Whoever the feathers belonged to had laid them down as a body pillow for Reiji, as if to protect him.

Then he noticed. He looked straight ahead while stroking the feathers. A presence looked back into Reiji's eyes, staring at his face anxiously.

「.....」

「.....」

Each of them slowly and carefully stared at each other's face in silence.

A sharp, black beak as well as a pair of blue pupils were reflected in Reiji's eyes. The blue eyes confirmed the state of Reiji somewhat anxiously.

It had the same eyes as his own. The next moment, it moved in right in front of Reiji's eyes. In other words, the bird had snuggled its head up to his face.

「Guru~」

This gesture, like a pampered cat, made him instinctively pet its head while smiling.

He then continued to pet its head a bit more. While petting the bird's head, Reiji unintentionally stopped and looked at it in its entirety.

「Guru~?」

What's wrong? The bird seemed to say as it tilted its head to one side. He directed his line of sight to where it was leaning. The feathers that he had expected were not there, instead there was a thick, silky fur. Lion.....is what he thought, it was like a lion's body. However, the forefeet were sharp like the claws of a raptor. Raptor with a lion's body.....no, eagle's head and forefeet,

though they were folded, there were wings growing from the body. Reiji knew the name of this mythical beast.

「Griffon.」

「Guru~」

That was the correct answer, he rubbed the eagle head as he said that. As he murmured, Reiji was finally able to recall why he had fainted.

「I see, I completed the ritual for the Magic Beast Art.....in other words , this Griffon is my magic beast.」

When he understood the existence of the Griffon, he once again turned his gaze back to the magic beast. The body of the lion was filled of a sense dynamism, the face of the eagle was both adorable and sharp. Without its wing folded out, its size was about 2m.

Naturally, the Griffon from Reiji's memory was something he knew from games and novels. To his knowledge, griffons were ferocious and aggressive . However, the Griffon in front of him wasn't like that at all. Rather than that, when rubbing its face, instead of looking ferocious, it looked more like a kitten

「Maybe it is different from other griffons because it was created with the Magic Beast Art.」

「Guru~」

When he muttered that, with good timing, the Griffon gave a cry from the depth of its throat.

「.....Do you understand my words?」

「Guru~」

As he guessed, the Griffon crowed again.

「Wait a minute.」

He brought out Zepairu's knowledge while stroking the Griffon's head.

According to it, the ability of the magic beast produced varied depending on the amount of magic power absorbed by the magic formation. In other words, the friendly Griffon's high ability was because of Reiji's vast magical power. Even if it was limited, it might have the ability to understand human speech.

「I see, I've roughly understood.....First of all, lets give you a name.」

For some reason, the Griffon had been looking at Reiji with wanting eyes since the beginning. According to the procedure of the Magic Beast Art, the existence of the magic beast is only established after it is given a name.

「Griffon, sky, storm.....how about Set?」

Set. It was the name of a god that appeared in Egyptian mythology, it was a god that governed storms. Moreover, according to the description Reiji knew, it was a god that symbolized great strength and governed fighting and war.

Looking at the Griffon before his eyes, whose existence was to protect him, Reiji associated it with that name.

「Gurururu~」

The griffon let out a happy sound from its throat as it heard the origin of Set.

「Right. From today on, you are Set. I am Reiji.....No, it should be different. That was my previous name.」

He thought about it while petting Set's head. The person known as Saeki Reiji had been crushed by a steel frame and died. Here, the person was a fusion of Saeki Reiji and Zepairu. No matter if Reiji was still the major personality, using the name Saeki Reiji carried a sense of incongruity. Moreover, according to Zepairu's knowledge, he understood that the name Saeki Reiji was not suitable in this world called Elgin.

「Reiji.....that's right, from now on, my name is Rei. Nice to meet you, Set. My name is Rei」

「Gururu~」

The moment he said that and Set answered, a list of skills came to the surface of his mind.

「This is, what?」

Words suddenly appeared in his mind. From Rei's senses, it was similar to the status screen of a game. ....Familiar things like STR or power were not displayed, instead it was split between skills and their descriptions. The name displayed on it was not Reiji or Rei but Set.

He pulled out Zepairu's knowledge in a hurry.

「.....Indeed, this is the work of Takumu.」

It seems that the skill list had been added by Takumu when the Magic Beast Art was being created. He was able to display the skills that Set had learned from eating magic stones. As expected from something that had spread from Japan. By the way, the only item in this room to have the feature where a list was displayed in his mind when you thought about it was Misty Ring.

「Well, it's a convenient thing to have.」

With much trouble, he had come to a different world. Smiling wryly at the situation, with the subtle scent of Japan lingering, he stood up with Set.

「Gururu」

Set then held out an elongated object in his beak to Rei. The object had been hidden in his shadow.

「This is.....a scythe?」

Scythe, and not one for cutting grass. The length of the handle was about 2m, the length of its blade was 1m, it was suitable to be called the scythe of death.

「Well, what should I do with this?」

「Guru~」

This is yours, it seemed say as it presented the scythe in its beak to Rei.

Because it didn't seem right to make Set keep holding it, he received the large scythe.

The handle was black, the blade was also black. Basically the large scythe in his hands had a jet black colour. Then he suddenly remembered.

「This scythe wasn't here when I entered the laboratory. In other words it must have appeared unnoticed.....There is one possibility though.」

How many times would it be today. Once again, he pulled out Zepairu's knowledge and the result was found at once.

「The Magic Beast Art is the cause again, is it.」

According to Zepairu's knowledge, a vast magical power is discharged during



the course of making the magic beast. In other words, when more magic than is needed to create the magic beast is released, the surplus magic power seems to produce a magic item. Of course, it was Takumu who had added this with his magic.

However, when Zepairu and his organization used it, all the magic power released went to making the magic beast, apparently a magic item had never been produced. In other words, it was a function Takumu added in for fun. It finally showed it's effect due to Rei's massive magic power.

「So, it became like this because Takumu was involved.....」

With the large scythe in hand, Rei muttered 'status' in his mind. The status of the magic item naturally appeared in his head.

『Death Scythe』

「Eh, it has the same name as the grim reaper's scythe. That feels dark, can't it be changed a little?」

That said, he could not complain to Takumu, who no longer existed in the world. Reading the description of the Death Scythe, he gave a dispirited sigh.

First ability, magic casting. Because it was a magic item made with Rei's enormous magic power, it's performance was extremely high.

Second ability, like Set, it could obtain new effects by absorbing magic stones. It was also possible to simultaneously learn the same abilities that Set did.

Third ability, weight reduction. Only for the person who has the same magic wavelength as the Death Scythe. In other words Rei and Set could use the Death Scythe without feeling its weight.

Fourth ability, the basic performance of the large scythe would increase if supplied with magic power.

This was the status list that was displayed in his mind.

「This, to be honest, has to be pretty rare?」

「Guru~」

You're right, Set seemed to cry.

「With the effect of magic casting, it certainly is good. It's good but.....usually,

shouldn't there be a sword? Why is it a large scythe?」

A magic weapon of expert quality was overwhelming but it seemed difficult to use. That was what Rei felt about the Death Scythe.

「I obtained this powerful magic item with much trouble, I guess there's nothing I can do but master it.」

He lifted the Death Scythe, the effect of weight reduction could immediately be felt.

Originally, a piece of metal this size should have weighed 10kg to 20kg. However, right now, Rei could barely feel the weight of the Death Scythe. It felt like it only weighed 100g.

TLN: Yeah no, as an engineer, 20kg felt a little off, based on it's size it should weigh closer to 80kg if it was made of steel.

「This is certainly amazing.」

「Guru」

Set also agreed, giving a deep cry.

「Now, the biggest goal was to safely inherit the Magic Beast Art.....what do I do from now on?」

Rei muttered while petting Set's silk like fur. After achieving his goal, he understood that he couldn't stay in this building in the future. Aside from drinking water, there was only enough food for 10 days. If he didn't leave for a village or town as soon as possible, the result would be the successor to the Magic Beast Art dying of hunger on the side of a road.

「No, that doesn't include the amount of food Set has to eat.」

Even if you say that it was created by the Magic Beast Art, it still needed food to live. Given that Set was over 2m in size, they probably only enough food for one day. Even at best, there was only two days of food left.

「With that said, it's necessary to go to a town or village as soon as possible but.....」

According to Zepairu's knowledge, a ward using spatial magic was set up to prevent monsters from getting in, there seemed to be a lot of brutal monsters

around the forest. If asked why they built a mansion in such a place, it was because this place was like a refuge for Zepairu. Therefore, a strong ward was set up in order to prevent vicious monsters from getting in, which was why there weren't any monsters near the mansion. Moreover, it took advantage of the monsters outside to defend against enemies.

「Though that's good, I wonder if I, a beginner in a fantasy world, can get out of forest where monsters live.....just thinking about it.」

As he muttered while grumbling, Rei unconsciously let out a sigh.

「Gururu~」

With a flapping sound, Set extended his wings to 2m, Rei lightly shook his head.

「It's a little difficult to fly through the sky. Anyway, it seems even dragons have settled here.」

「Guru~」

「Don't worry about it. To begin with I don't know how much power you and I have.」

He said that to comfort Set while stroking its head.

「It would have been good if Takumu had made other things aside from skills visible in the status.....But I can't do it. No, wait a moment? Maybe there's a magic item we can use in Misty Ring.」

As Rei said that, he moved with Set to the jewelry box that held Misty Ring.

「Gurururu~」

When he saw the jewelry box, Set let out a happy cry. Rei, who saw that appearance, remembered a legend that Griffons collected treasure.

「Set, you may play with the jewelry box for a while.」

「Guru~」

At Rei's words, Set joyfully rubbed his cheek against the jewelry box. While watching the scene with a smile, he put the Misty Ring on his right arm. The Misty Ring, which used to be quite large, shrunk to Rei's arm size, fitting perfectly.

「Um, to display the list.....ah, you only have to think it.」

A huge list of items and materials came into his mind, there were a lot of names on the list. However, as Rei scrolled through the list, he involuntarily put his hand to his head.

「There certainly are magic items made from potent materials and likely have strong effects. But is there any food or something? There are the bones of a dragon, the horns of a elder devil, can you eat the tail of a salamander? Come to think of it, if they planned to find a successor to the Magic Beast Art, they should have prepared food for Set.」

To break the status quo and find the magic items necessary, it seemed there was no other way but to use Zepairu's knowledge. As a result, he found what was called the『Orb of Examination』. It could be used to check the magic aptitude of the user.

Rei was declared by Zepairu to have one of the worlds highest magic powers. He took it out from Misty Ring to check what magic he was suitable for as well as his magic aptitude.

「If I can use water magic, then I won't be troubled with drinking water, hopefully I'm compatible with it. After that maybe spatial magic or alchemy if it can increase the properties of magic items. 」

He put his hand to the orb while imagining his magic aptitude. The symbol of his magic characteristic appeared on the orb. For example, if a water droplet was displayed, it meant that Rei would have the water magic compatibility he wanted. A door represented spatial magic. A flask symbolized alchemy.

In the end, only one symbol was reflected in Rei's expectant eyes, the symbol of a flame.

# Chapter 4

「Wait. Wait a moment.」

Looking at the results displayed on the Orb of Examination, Rei unintentionally opened his mouth.

「Guru~?」

Set, who had been admiring the jewelry box a bit further away, felt something, turned around and directed his sight at Rei.

Rei noticed it and shook his head slightly at Set while involuntarily covering his face with his hand.

「My magic aptitude is only fire? Is that it? Is it because I fused with Zepairu, a fire magician?」

While muttering like that, Rei found that it was different from what he thought. According to Zepairu's knowledge, he had definitely called himself a fire magician. However, he only identified himself as such only because it was what he was best at, it didn't mean he didn't use other magic. Though he didn't master all of them, he could also use, wind magic, space-time magic, alchemy, summoning magic and ancient magic.

「In other words, my aptitude is specialized purely in fire magic.....is it?」

His magic power at which even Zepairu marveled. He would no doubt become a great war potential with strength and specialization in fire magic. But,

「A novice fire magician like me using fire magic in a forest?」

So, that was the problem. Naturally, if you are a fire magician, you manipulate fire. And fire can spread to the surrounding forest. If he made a mistake in the scale of magic, with his magic power and fire magic, there was a possibility he could burn down the entire forest. Rei and Set's skills were also poor.

「Among earth, water, fire and wind, other than fire, you can safely use the rest in a forest.....ugh, this isn't the time to think about that. No matter what, we will be forced to leave the mansion tomorrow, we can do nothing more than



use what we have at hand.」

Even if there was normally enough food for 10 days, that was if you only counted Rei. With Set having a body in excess of 2m, the food would only last several meals. They would starve to death if they remained here. Therefore, the conclusion Rei reached was to head out tomorrow and get to a village or town as soon as possible.

「In that case, first I need to confirm whether I can use magic properly.」

From the inherited knowledge of Zepairu, there was enough information for Rei to master fire magic. But, that is only Zepairu's knowledge, not Rei's knowledge. First of all, magic is more dependent on the person's qualities and mental visualization. If he trusted Zepairu's knowledge too much, there was the possibility of making an irreversible mistake in the case of an emergency.

「Gurururu～」

「Ah, go over there Set. It's magic practice.」

Rei answered Set's questioning cry and stepped away from the magic formation, stopping a little distance from it.

From the knowledge he was taught, the magic formation on the floor would not react except to anything except the Magic Beast Art, however, he still was cautious.

Grasping the Death Scythe, he triggered its magic casting effect. Then he took a deep breath to concentrate his mind. He was naturally able to recognize the magic power in his body.

Using an incantation put magic power to words, tricking the world and temporarily rewriting it, it's an art to produce the results of one's desires. Because of this, the incantation is different depending on the magician, it is near impossible to achieve the result even if the same incantation as the other magician was used. More than that, earth, water, fire, wind, light, darkness, other than their basic differences, the principle remained the same, this also applied for the fire magic Rei had aptitude for.

『Fire, gather on my fingertips.』

Uttering an incantation, magic power is put to words . The importance of this

is in the visualization. Even if the process of rewriting the world with the incantation is the same, the clearer the visualization of the outcome, the greater the effect. For Rei who like subcultures such as novels, manga, anime, movies and games, visualizing images of that kind was not difficult for him.

The laws of the world are rewritten by the incantation, an example was Rei's visualization.

『Small Flame』

With the visualization fixed by the incantation, a fist sized flame appeared on the index finger of his right hand.

「.....Right. The first magic in my life, it's a success.」

To be precise, the Magic Beast Art was his first magic Rei used in his life, but the Magic Beast Art only absorbed the caster's magic power when an incantation was said on a particular magic formation that had been drawn on this floor. It was a magic almost done automatically to produce a magic beast. The fire magic that Rei had used was from beginning to end something he carried out at his own will and could be called the first magic that he used in his life.

「Fire magic is usable without any problems.....However, using higher level magic than this is slightly difficult. I may burn the entire mansion down if I make a mistake. I must definitely avoid burning the Magic Beast Art formation at all costs.」

He glanced at the other half of the room. He turned his gaze to the magic formation drawn in the center.

「Gururu~」

Set, seeing Rei's appearance, approached with light steps that seemed to carry no weight and rubbed its eagle like face against Rei's face.

「What, are you concerned?」

「Guru~」

「Well see, I can't practice more magic than this.....」

Rei gently petted Set's head while saying so. Looking at his arm while petting,

he noticed that there was still something to be done.

「I mustn't forget to choose some equipment. There is no sense in not equipping equipment you have, just like in games.」

While stroking Set's neck with his left hand, he displayed a list of the items contained in Misty Ring in his mind.

「.....It's a bit hard to search. No, wait. Perhaps.」

Next to the Dragon Fang was a magic recovery potion, under that were meteorite fragments and the roots of a Mandrake. Rei involuntarily grimaced at the sloppy organization of the item list, he recalled that the creator of the Misty Ring was Takumu and thought of 『Sort』 hoping it would work.

「That was it after all.」

The next moment, the list that had been displayed in his mind was categorized by type and updated.

「As expected of Takumu.」

If it played like a game then it was a natural function, Misty Ring adapted to the expected form wonderfully.

「Weapons are not going to be a problem because there is Death Scythe, in that case protective gear.」

When looking for protective gear on the list in his mind, he immediately stopped scrolling when he saw the name of one of the items.

『Dragon Robe』

It was blatantly expensive sound to it, in addition it seemed to have a high performance. He explored Zepairu's knowledge in a hurry.

The robe was made from the skins of dragons that had lived several hundred years. Because it was finished by coating it in dragon's blood and dragon powered bones, it boasted an unprecedented magic defense. More than that, the robe was made by layering two pieces of dragon skin with dragon scales placed between the two skins. The physical defense was also considerably high. Because the skins used were from a fire dragon and water dragon, it was cool inside if it was hot outside and warm inside if it was cold outside. And finally,

the alchemist who made this robe, Esta Nord, the alchemist of Zepairu's organization, attached some effects such as concealment to the high performance magic item.

TLN: The concealment effect of the Dragon Robe means that other people will see it as an ordinary robe.

He was surprised at the high physical and magic defenses, however, what really surprised Rei was that it was air conditioned if he wore it.

「This will be good as temporary protection.」

He selected the Dragon Robe in his mind, the next moment a black robe appeared on his right.

「With this, the weapon and protective gear are okay. Then, next are shoes.」

When he viewed the footwear category, like the time with the Dragon Robe, his eyes stopped at one item.

『Shoes of Sleipnir』

Sleipnir was a monstrous horse with eight legs. It's speed was the highest out of the monsters that ran on the ground, it should be noted that it could also run in the sky. The shoes were made from the leather of this monster. It had an effect of increasing the speed of whoever wore it, it was also possible to jump and kick the air to stay in the sky for a few seconds.

「With this, the shoes are picked.」

As with the Dragon Robe, Shoes of Sleipnir were taken out from Misty Ring and placed on the floor.

「Guru~」

Set watched with round eyes as each item was taken out from Misty Ring, he abruptly rubbed his head against Rei.

「Hmm? What, do you also want some equipment?」

「Gururu~」

「Wait a moment. What would be good for Set to equip.....」

While scratching Set's head, he displayed Misty Ring's item list in his mind and took out several items that looked good.

### 『Bracelet of Wind Manipulation』

When equipped, it can block a single magic spell. It cannot display its effect again for 10 hours after its use.

### 『Bracelet of Herculean Strength』

A bracelet to increase the strength of the user.

### 『Bracelet of Magic Absorption』

If the user attacks and damages an enemy, magical power proportional to the damage done is absorbed from the enemy.

### 『Love of Shizukuishi』

A pendant shaped like a water drop. Zepairu's organization's alchemist, Esta Nord, processed a Unicorn Magic Stone using alchemy. It gives the equipped a continuous recovery effect.

TLN: Shizukuishi is a town in Japan

「Well, these things. Set, which one is good?」

After hearing Rei's words Set seemed to enter a state of thought. While making some sounds, he lifted up the Bracelet of Wind Manipulation, Bracelet of Herculean Strength and the Love of Shizukuishi in his beak.

Rei stroked Set's neck and involuntarily gave a wry smile as he saw the situation.

「3 is it.....Well, maybe my companion, Set, needs that much equipment. The pendent can worn around the neck, but what about the two bracelets?」

「Guru~」

With a small cry, he held out his left and right eagle like forefeet.

「This.....will it fit, I wonder?」

No matter how one looked at it, the feet were larger than the bracelet. While thinking so, he judged that it would be okay because it was a magic item and brought the Bracelet of Wind Manipulation near the right foot, the bracelet changed its size when it was brought near and the Bracelet of Herculean Strength was also nicely fitted onto the left foot.

Magic items indeed, while admiring that, he finished lastly by placing Love of Shizukuishi over Set's neck.

「Gurururu~」

Magic items that he had received from his master, Rei. Set rubbed his head against Rei while letting out a happy cry.

Afterwards, Rei equipped the remaining bracelet on his left arm and their equipment preparations were completed.

Death Scythe, a weapon made from the Magic Beast Art. Dragon Robe, protective gear made from dragon skin. Shoes of Sleipnir for his feet. Misty Ring on his right wrist and Bracelet of Magic Absorption on his left. The person himself was not aware but, including the magic items that Set was equipped with, in this world they would be called super top quality items.

「Gurururu~」

As Rei looked at the equipped items with satisfaction, the sad voice of Set brought him back.

「What's wrong?」

「Guru~」

Even for a magic beast made with Rei's magic power, it wasn't able to speak. However, the nuances were generally understood.

「Gururu~」

While crying sadly again, Set rubbed his head against Rei's belly. In this state, Rei finally felt like he understood what Set was trying to say.

「Are you hungry?」

「Guru~」

Set nodded, he was complaining of hunger. Rei then noticed himself that he was pretty hungry.

「Come to think of it, I haven't eaten since I got up. Well I'm also hungry. Then, lets go to the dinning room. It will be the last meal before we leave.」

「Guru~」

Rei, along with Set, left the laboratory and headed towards the cafeteria.

On a side note, even though Set boasted a considerable size and length at 2m, it was possible to leave through the laboratory door as it was designed on the premise that people who entered would use the Magic Beast Art. Afterwards, some dry, boring, black bread that was left in the kitchen was soaked in water and eaten. Set and Rei were tired after finishing the lacking dinner and fell asleep in the bedroom.

# Chapter 5

Despite the huge trees around the building, the fresh morning light still streamed in for some reason. Because it was in the morning, the surrounding air was very clear. If there was a person who wanted to walk through the forest to relax, here would be a great place. ....However, only if you could get here.

Rei had taken a step out of the building with Set to check the state of the surroundings.

「According to Zepairu's knowledge, the barrier should extend about 100m from the center of the building.....probably.」

「Gururu~」

Set nodded to Rei's words.

「If we take even one step outside the barrier, it will already be a monster paradise.....Are we prepared?」

The Death Scythe had been put on his shoulder, it could be shifted to his right hand to be used at any time.

「Gururu~!」

Set raised a cry that was full of fighting spirit. One person and one animal advanced while relying on the other. After walking for about 3 minutes, a thin film attached to the building came into view.

「So this is the barrier. Though it is nerve racking to go out.....the other decision is to starve to death.」

Yes, the food that was supposed to last him 10 days had already been finished after this morning's breakfast. 10 days worth of food had been exhausted in 2 meals. Rei was wary of the surroundings while Set was prepared to protect Rei at any time.

Originally Rei had wanted to keep several pieces of bread with him to eat in the forest. However, he was defeated by Set's sad, sorrowful eyes because of hunger. The last pieces of bread were in Set's stomach.



「.....Well, but you know. I'll need to find a job as soon as possible to earn money for future food expenses. Are there adventurers or something like that here?」

According to Zepairu's knowledge, there seems to be an adventurer guild, however there won't be a guild branch office if the town isn't big enough. In other words, in order to earn money for Set's food, he had to leave the forest and go to a big city as soon as possible.

「If you only think about Set's meals, I wonder if we could defeat some monsters and eat the meat. Fortunately, Set is a magic creature so everything he eats is converted to magic power and doesn't enter the body, the worry of having to go to toilet is unnecessary.」

However, in that case, the living expenses of Rei are brought up. There is the method of selling the nails, skin and other materials that Set doesn't eat at a corner stall. That said, the best method was still to leave the forest and find a town with an adventurer guild branch office and work as an active adventurer.

Rei confirmed his determination again, and with Set, took one step outside the ward.

「Uwah, seriously.」

As soon as they took one step out of the barrier, there were overwhelmingly dense signs of living creatures. Rei used to live in a country town in Tohoku. Of course there were nearby mountains and a river. Rabbits, squirrels, deer, monkeys, foxes and tanukis, it was not unusual to see wild boars either. If you went to the heart of the mountains, you might find a bear at times. However, Rei was overwhelmed by the signs here in comparison.

「What to say, this truly is a different world.」

Plants such as trees and grass surrounded the periphery of the barrier. It was like people seeing the mountains around Rei's area for the first time.

While sucking in the fresh morning air, he began to walk through the forest with Set.

As expected, after being left alone for several hundred years, the road that was there had disappeared. There was a suitable distance between the large

trees which wasn't too hard to walk though. However, for Set who exceeded 2m in size, it felt narrow and he gave a deep growl.

「Gururu～」

Set lightly rubbed his beak against his wings. It seemed that he wanted to fly in the sky instead of being obstructed on the ground.

Rei talked to persuade him while scratching his head.

「Calm down. Although I think I said it yesterday, there are also dragon species living in the forest. If you fly in the sky, they will consider you to be breakfast.」

「Guru～」

Set dejectedly dropped his shoulders at Rei's words. Though his body is big, his patience is still insufficient as it was only the second day since his birth.

They had left the barrier for about 30 minutes. With Rei wearing the Shoes of Sleipnir, which increased his speed, and as Set was a Griffon, they went through the forest at a considerable speed with good time. During this, Rei spotted a tree with what looked like red fruit. He moved in front of the tree and stretched out his hands to take the fruit from the tree.

「I wonder, Set. Do you think I can eat this?」

He asked Set as an apple like, fist sized, red fruit lay in his hands.

「Guru～?」

However, Set didn't understand and only tilted his head to the side.

Rei stared at the red fruit with Set. However, an idea came to mind and smile floated to his face.

「This is a time to use Zepairu's knowledge.」

He brought out the information of the apple like fruit in his hand from Zepairu's knowledge.

『Clara Fruit』

It was a kind of fruit in the forest. It's flesh is delicious and has a sweet-sour taste. However, care must be taken if a Clara Fruit is found. Because it is so delicious, many monsters and beasts like to eat it.

As he read the description, Rei's face cramped.

「Dangerous. Set, for the time being, let's leave here. This fruit is.....」  
「Gurururururururu~!」

Though Rei immediately started to leave the place, Set was looking to the forest at his right and giving low growls.

「.....Too slow. Ah well, we can't help it, there's no other way. Quietly turn into food for Set and me.」

Rei became calm as his mentality changed in an instant, he held out the Death Scythe after putting away the Clara Fruit into the Misty Ring.

Though the person himself did not notice at all, no excess fear or hesitation to the battle existed in Rei's mind.

「Now then, what will come out? I'll be glad if it is a wild boar or at least not a monster.」

It was a hope that he couldn't really hope for. As for what appeared, it was a bear that was around 2m tall from what he saw. However, with water covering its fur, it was probably a monster and not a wild animal.

「.....」  
「.....」  
「.....」

For a few seconds, Rei, Set and the bear stared at each others eyes in silence.

It was more or less 2m in size, but it felt larger than Set as it was standing up. It had a discernibly strong build and had water all over its fur. In addition, it had 30cm long and sharp claws extending from its paws, it had a sinister feel to it. Why didn't the water drip down from the fur at the top of his head? Rei thought. It was the Water Bear (tentative name) that broke the silence.

TLN: The (tentative name) was in the raws, I've kept it there in case the author changes the name in future.

「Gaaaaaaaaaaaa~!」

While raising a roar that echoed into the surroundings, it dropped to all fours and attacked Rei and Set.

「Tch, there's no choice. Set, let's do it!」

「Gururu~!」

Ok, Set seemed to say as he raised a sharp cry and moved forward to meet the Water Bear. Rei followed while holding the Death Scythe.

「Gaaa~!」

The Water Bear recognized that his prey had run towards it instead of running away, it bared its 10cm long fangs while moving to swing his claws at Set.

「Gururu~!」

Set avoided the blow by jumping to the side. He kicked against the tree that he had just jumped past and swung his sharp forefeet and the Water Bear in a triangular hop.

With the conspicuous sound, Rei confirmed that the tree that Set had used a step had broken. He held the Death Scythe while wryly smiling at Set's physical strength.....However, he held the scythe with the handle facing outwards. After all, he could hardly swing scythe that boasted a length of 2m in this forest. Therefore, he planned to use part of the handle of the scythe as a spear.

「Gaa~!」

The Water Bear received a blow and was slashed by Set's claws. While raising a growl of agony, it swung its claws down at Set again.

The attack was avoided by jumping back. The Water Bear, which missed its target, lost its balance and staggered .....Rei aimed at the side of the Water Bear and stabbed out with the Death Scythe.

While making a dull thud, the handle of the Death Scythe penetrated its flank, ignoring the water and fur that was covering the Water Bear.

「Gaaaaa~!」

While frowning as he felt it go through flesh, with its powerful left arm, the Water Bear pulled out the Death Scythe while swinging the claws on his right hand at Rei. The moment the handle was pulled out, the blood of the Water Bear ran out and fell to the surrounding grass. The Water Bear did not mind it and continued to swing his sinister claws.

「Gaaaaaa~!」

The Water Bear roared in surprise and irritation as it was damaged by the small creature before it. The wound wasn't a small one. At the same time, it wasn't a fatal wound given the vitality of a monster.

While observing the Water Bear, Rei could not hide his surprise at his own physical ability. After all, he had stabbed with the handle of the scythe. He didn't think that his blow had a degree of power to cut through the body of the Water Bear like a knife through butter.

(The physical ability of this body seems higher than expected.)

Thinking in his mind, he checked the state of the Water Bear.

「.....What?」

This time, Rei was surprised at the Water Bear. The flank of the Water Bear should have been pierced with the handle, however, it was regenerating at a visible rate, he began to understand the use of the water covered it. To Rei's surprise, after water had flowed into the wound for 10 seconds, the bleeding stopped, even the wound itself disappeared.

「As expected of a monster.....in other words, the only way is to deal heavy damage in a single blow without giving it time to recover or something like that.」

Turning his eyes to the Death Scythe for a moment, he suddenly realized.

(Oops. I forgot the ability of the Death Scythe that increases its power if I give it magic power. As expected it must be the tension of the first battle.....tension?)

Thinking about it, he finally noticed his tension. Though he was tense, he wasn't like recruits and amateurs from novels who wouldn't be able to move their bodies well due to stress.

(This is also a result of the fusion.)

While thinking about that, he glanced at the state of the Water Bear that seemed to be at loss whether to attack Set or Rei.

(Though the Death Scythe has the highest offensive power at hand, it's

difficult to swing as there is no room in the forest. While saying that, it's also a bad idea to use fire magic in the forest.)

While considering the possibilities in his head, Set, the Water Bear and Rei, one person and two animals, were in a stalemate, no one moving carelessly.

If the Water Bear attacked Set, it would be stabbed by Rei. Reversely, if it attacked Rei, it would be slashed by Set.

As for Set and Rei, there was no point in attacking the Water Bear as it would fully recover in about 10 seconds, like the blow that pierced its flank.

In actual fact, when the Water Bear used the water that covered it to regenerate, magic power was consumed, however, it was Rei's first battle and he didn't notice it. If he noticed, there would be a lot of other options.

「Gaaaa~」

「Gururu~」

The Water Bear and Set growled at each other, trying to intimidate the opponent. While watching the situation, Rei desperately worked in his head.

(What to do, should I go for the sink or swim and supply magic power to the Death Scythe? Perhaps with its physical ability it should be able to cut through the bear and the trees around it at the same time. ....No, I should make that the last resort. What else is there.....should I use fire magic and be prepared for a fire? That wouldn't work. From the knowledge I drew about the forest, the possibility of a fire is no joke. ....No, wait. A fire? Fire magic? Death Scythe's handle.....!? I got it!)

An idea came, in an instant Rei called out to Set who was glaring at the Water Bear.

「Set, break the stance of the Water Bear like just before! I'll do something afterwards if you can do that!」

「Gururu~!」

Leave it to me, Set gave a cry as it started to move around in a ring to focus the Water Bear's attention on himself.

「Gaaaaaa~」

The Water Bear wasn't able to remain indifferent to the situation and gradually diverted its attention from Rei to Set

How much time did it continue for. Although the confrontation felt long to Rei, it had only been a few minutes. The Water Bear wasn't able to put up with the stalemate and gave a loud roar.

「Gaaaaaaaaa!」

At the same time as the roar, the water on the Water Bear's fur came out, it changed into 3 water balls in front of his eyes. The next moment, the water balls shot towards Set.

(Here it is!)

Seeing the state of the Water Bear and Set, Rei judged that it was a turning point in the battle and grasped the handle of the Death Scythe while concentrating his mind and preparing to cast a spell at any time.

3 water balls shot from the Water Bear, tearing through the sky. Set saw that and shortened the distance to the Water Bear, weaving between the trees.

「Gururu!」

One of the water balls hit a tree Set had used as a shield, gouging out the trunk of the tree.

「Gurururu~!」

Set instantly dived to the ground to evade a water ball that was going towards his head. The water ball passed over his head and hit the tree trunks behind him.

「Gururururururu~!」

From his state with his head on the ground, Set used his body as a spring and rushed forward. The distance to the Water Bear was rapidly cut down.

In this state, he attempted to land a blow on the Water Bear before he could be hit by the last water ball.

「Gaaaa~!」

.....It was clear to the Water Bear. Because of that, the Water Bear raised a

roar of victory. However,

「Gururururu~!」

Changing its course in the air, the water ball attacked Set from above. But, just before the the blow hit Set, it abruptly exploded as if it hit something.

「Gaa~!?!」

The Water Bear didn't know what happened. Of course, that was natural. One of the bracelets Set had put on was the Bracelet of Wind Manipulation, which could disable all projectile and magic attacks. However, the Water Bear didn't know that there was a limitation and could only be used once every 10 hours. Because of that,

「Gururururururu~!」

Set dived towards the chest of the Water Bear and slashed out with his right forefoot while raising a cry!

「Gaaaa!?!」

Literally lifted off its feet, the Water Bear fell over. This was due to another bracelet Set had equipped, the Bracelet of Herculean Strength, which increased his strength.

Believing in Set, Rei had watched the development of events. At the moment the Water Bear fell over, he started running towards the Water Bear while casting a spell.

『Fire, you are a snake. Therefore, burn my enemy as I desire.』

According to the incantation supplied with magic power, the world was rewritten. As a result, flames gathered around the magic body of the Death Scythe.....

「Hah!」

「Gaa~!?!」

As the incantation finished, the handle of the Death Scythe was stabbed into the back of the Water Bear that had fallen over.

『Dance Fire Snake!』



The moment the spell was completed, a snake made of fire was shot out from the handle of the Death Scythe and went forward from the back to the head to burn the Water Bear from the inside.....

「Gaaaaaaaaaaa~!」

Raising a roar filled with fear and pain as its brains were burned, the Water Bear collapsed on the spot.

# Chapter 6

The monster that boasted a huge size of 2m crumpled to the ground with a dull thud that echoed into the surroundings. The the water that originally covered the fur had been completely evaporated by the heat of the flame snake and the fur could no longer be distinguished from the fur of a normal bear.

「Somehow, it worked out.....okay.」

「Guru~」

Rei muttered involuntarily as he sat on the ground. Set, who heard it, pressed his face against Rei as usual. The body of the Water Bear lying on the ground had lost all signs of life.

「You did well too Set. If you weren't there, I may not have been able to easily beat that guy. If I did a bad job, the entire forest may have burned down.....it seemed like that would have happened.」

「Gurururu.」

He scratched Set's head as he praised him. Set was in good spirits as his head was scratched and let out a cat like sound from his throat.

This continued for a few minutes. Rei, who then recovered his breath, stood up.

「Even if I can do something with the corpse of this monster somehow, let's first move away from here. No doubt another monster will come soon.」

In the surroundings, trees had been broken and the ground dug up due to the impact of the fight between Set and the Water Bear. In addition, the smell of burnt meat and blood from the Water Bear was drifting around.

「So, the problem is how do we move this Water Bear.....do we put it on Set's back? No, that would be placing hundreds of kilos on Set.....no, wait? Maybe.....」

Rei's troubled eye caught the Misty Ring that was on his right arm. According to Zepairu's knowledge, living creatures couldn't be put inside, however it seems that there was no problem with the Water Bear because it was already

dead.

「Store.」

He said that as he touched the corpse of the Water Bear. The next moment, the corpse of the Water Bear disappeared without a trace. The storage had succeeded as he could find the corpse of the Water Bear on the list in his mind.

「I see, while it can't store living creatures, it can store corpses.....then, this?」

The tree that Set broke when he did the triangle jump, was reflected in Rei's eyes. It was quite a large tree with a 1m diameter trunk.....even with that said, it was still the size of most trees in the forest.

「Store.」

He said while touching the broken tree. Same as before, in a moment, it disappeared without a trace.

「Guru~」

Let's go quickly, Set's face seemed to say as Rei stroked his back, the reward of the Clara Fruits were stored in the Misty Ring.

「Right, it should be okay if we came here.」

They finally stopped after they walked 20 minutes away from the place where they fought the Water Bear. Normally they wouldn't be able to go that far in 20 minutes, but given the performance of the Shoes of Sleipnir that Rei wore, they moved several times faster than when they normally walked.

The sun had already risen high and bit by bit, the heat had started to spread around.

However, Rei was wearing the Dragon Rove which had a function that automatically maintained the temperature, and the current heat wasn't something that Set minded much. They sat down on the ground to rest, they hadn't stopped moving since the battle with the Water Bear.

「Guru~」

Set gave a cry as his head was petted. In that state, four Clara Fruits that were stored earlier were taken out from the Misty Ring.

「Set.」

「Gururu~」

Set let out a happy sound as Rei stopped petting and held out a Clara Fruit in his hand. Set picked up the Clara Fruit in his beak and ate the whole thing at once.

While watching the situation, Rei also bit into the skin of a Clara Fruit.

A sweet and sour taste spread through his mouth the moment he bit in. When the flesh of the fruit was savored, fresh juice filled his mouth.

It was the first time Rei tasted something like this. ....Well, because he lived in a country town in Tohoku, he never ate any rare fruits.

At any rate, they ate two of the unexpectedly delicious Clara Fruits each. Next was the dismantling of the Water Bear.

「Set, keep watch for other monsters that may come because of the smell of blood when the Water Bear is dismantled.」

「Guru~」

Giving a small nod at Rei's words, Set moved a bit further away to keep watch of the surroundings.

While looking at Set's reliable appearance, the body of the Water Bear was taken out of the Misty Ring.

「Now then.....even if I said that, what to do. I haven't dismantled a bear before.」

The most that Rei had done was the dismantling of chickens. His father did cockfights as a hobby and he was made to help strangle the ones that lost.

TLN: While this may seem cruel, please understand that in some countries cockfighting is treated the same way baseball is in America. The sport is not banned in Japan but the roosters used in them are considered a protected species.

「Even if you say its just like a chicken, there's no hot water.」

When you strangle a chicken, the neck and ankles are cut and it is hung on string to drain the blood, after that, hot water is sprayed over it and the

feathers plucked. At that time, it becomes easier to pull the feathers off the chicken, and because the feathers are wet, they don't fly around.

He shook his neck while thinking about it.

「In the first place, a chicken can't be used as reference to dismantle a bear because it has no wings or feathers. There's nothing in Zepairu's knowledge about dismantling either. ....There's no other way, I guess I'll have to learn myself. At a minimum I must not damage the magic stone so that Set can eat it afterwards. The fur.....well, it will be good if I can skin it neatly.」

With a goal tentatively decided, the dismantlement began! The moment he thought that, he noticed that he only had the Death Scythe. Of course, dismantling with a scythe would have a very high degree of difficulty. Rei let out a sigh once more, because there was no helping it, he looked for a knife inside the Misty Ring.

『Mithril Knife』

Mithril Ore has a high magic affinity. This knife was made from the highest quality ore. The sharpness changes depending on the amount of magic power supplied.

(No way, dismantling with a mithril knife.....I wonder what other adventurers would think about that.)

For sure, he would definitely be yelled at. There may also be some people who would burst into tears.

As he was about to insert the knife into the Water Bear, he suddenly withdrew the knife. He recalled that he had not looked up information about the Water Bear from Zepairu's knowledge. Notes about dismantling it and which parts sell at a higher price, the result would come out differently if he knew. But.....

「There's nothing in Zepairu's knowledge?」

Rei muttered quizzically. Although he tried to do something he was familiar with and pull out knowledge of the Water Bear from Zepairu's knowledge, there was no information about the Water Bear at all.

(Then, could this be a new monster that appeared in the few hundred years since Zepairu used magic to send himself to the spirit world?)

Though he wondered in his mind, he had no choice but to judge for himself as there was no knowledge.

Making up his mind, he poured magic power into the mithril knife and inserted it into the side of the Water Bear. Then, as expected of the mithril blade, or maybe because of Rei's surprising magic power, it went through the fur like a blade through water.

「Somehow I'm managing.」

Rei skinned the fur off along the muscle. Of course, as this was his first experience, he made some mistakes such as cutting the fur. However, he succeeded in stripping the fur in a relatively clean state due to the sharpness of the knife.

For the time being, he stored the removed fur into the Misty Ring, then he stabbed the heart of the Water Bear with the knife. As he cut the meat, the blade of the knife bumped into something and he carefully gouged it out.

What came out was a blue crystal the size of Rei's fist. At first glance, it looked like a jewel.

「This is a magic stone. It's blue, the attribute should be water.....well, that's natural.」

Magic stones had different colours based on the attribute of the monster it belonged to. However, there were differences between individuals, it was possible for the same kind of monster to have both wind magic stones or fire magic stones. With that said, the Water Bear is a simple example.

「It's not necessary to take too much care after removing the magic stone. Let's just cut it into pieces for Set and I to eat.....」

By pouring magic power into the mithril knife, it can easily cut through bone.

The dismantlement of the bear was completed in a few minutes. Now, before Rei's eyes, there were 6 parts, the right arm, left arm, right leg, left leg, body and head.

「Guru～」

Set, smelling the scent of blood, came closer while making noises from his throat. His gaze was directed at the offal that had been removed from the body of the Water Bear.

「.....Are you hungry?」

「Guru～」

Seeing the situation, he started to scratch Set's head out of habit.

(Well then, what to do now. Because there's no information about the Water Bear from Zepairu's knowledge, I don't know if the offal is safe to eat.....Well, at worst there's probably an antidote in the Misty Ring, there shouldn't be any problems.....probably?)

Glancing at the offal of the Water Bear, which was located in a large leaf, he came to that conclusion after thinking for a few seconds.

「Set, you can eat. However, don't eat the stomach, intestines, liver and testicles.」

「Guru~!」

Set let out a joyful sound and immediately thrust his beak into the offal in front of his eyes.

Rei told him not to eat the testicles and liver because he faintly recalled seeing something on TV that said they contained a poison similar to blowfish. The stomach and intestines were a matter of course.

Though Set had eaten most of the food for breakfast, it was still hungry to the extent that when Rei told him he could eat the offal, he started right away.

「Gururu～」

When he finally finished, Set gave a cry. By the looks of it, he was very satisfied,

「You seemed to have settled down, hey, come here for a moment.」

「Guru～」

Using a leaf from a nearby tree, Rei wiped the offal that was stuck to Set's beak.

「Guru～」

It was comfortable, Set seemed to be in a good mood as he gave a cry and closed his eyes.

After cleaning Set’s beak, Rei finished by taking out the blue magic stone that was removed from the Water Bear.

「Guru～?」

「Now then, can you.....eat the magic stone?」

「Guru～」

Of course, Set nodded. In a sense, it might be a desert for Set, Rei thought as he presented the fist sized, blue magic stone.

「Guru～」

Set held the magic stone in his beak.....and swallowed it in one gulp.

「.....How is it?」

Rei asked set somewhat cautiously. Abruptly a voice echoed in his heaed.

【Set has acquired 『Water Ball Lv.1』】

It was like the announcement message when a new skill was acquired in an RPG, Rei had an idea to who would devote their time to making something with such a game specific taste.

「Takumu, you.....」

\*\*\*\*\*

【Set】

『Water Ball Lv.1』

【Death Scythe】



# Chapter 7

Although he let out a sigh whenever he found game elements added by Takumu, Rei accepted them as normal as they were useful.

What's wrong with Rei? Set seemed to say as he rubbed Rei's face.

「No, it's nothing much. Is the Water Ball the same as the one the Water Bear used ?」

「Guru~」

Set nodded at his words

「Right. Do you want to use it now and take a look? I want to understand its strength.」

「Gurururururu~!」

As Set raised a cry, a water ball 20cm in diameter immediately appeared in front of his beak. The situation certainly looked the same as when the Water Bear used it.

「Right, please try to hit the tree trunk over there.」

「Guru~」

Following Rei's instructions, Set launched the water ball. Although the water ball flew quite fast, it was slower than the one the Water Bear used. As it hit the tree trunk.....only the surface of the tree broke.

「Guru~.....」

Compared to the one the Water Bear used, the speed at which the water ball flew was obviously slow, the power was also low. The amount created was also different, Set could only use one where as the Water Bear could use three at the same time. Because he was originally confident, Set dejectedly lowered his head.

「Set, don't feel depressed. In the first place, it's still only Lv.1. Perhaps the Water Bear's Water Ball was a higher level, if you absorb more magic stones, the power of the water ball will go up and other skills can be obtained.」

「Guru～」

Really? Set looked at Rei and tilted his head. His appearance was lovely, it wasn't something you would think of considering he was a combination of the king of the skies and the king of the beasts.

「Ah. Water Ball isn't just useful for attack. At the very least, Set and I won't go thirsty.」

「Guru～」

Leave it to me, Set gave a short cry as his mood was fixed. Maybe this simplicity was because it was only the 2nd day since his birth.

「In any case, the dismantling of the Water Bear has also finished. The magic stone has also been absorbed and the effect confirmed. Then we should get moving soon, the smell of the Water Bear's blood would have spread by the wind and monsters will be here soon.」

「Guru～」

With Set nodding, they left the place in a hurry.

With that, the only things that remained were the left over offal that Set didn't eat and the blood from the dismantling of the Water Bear.

They had moved for about an hour from the place where the Water Bear was dismantled. As Rei walked through the forest, he took a Clara Fruit from the Misty Ring and took a bite.

At that time, Set suddenly stopped and searched the surroundings.

「Set, enemy?」

「Guru～」

Set nodded at Rei's words and turned his sharp eyes to the back.

He briefly looked behind, but unfortunately, Rei's vision couldn't see the figure of an enemy.

(Well, even if you say this body was created by the best magicians, there's still a difference between the five senses of a magic beast. Now, what to do?)

The Death Scythe was in his right hand and the Mithril Knife at his waist. Though Rei was thought about it for a moment, he still chose the Death Scythe.

Even if it was difficult to maneuver, there was still the ability to use magic.

「There is the possibility of attacking us when we camp if it keeps chasing us. Okay, we'll fight it here.」

「Gururu~」

Set nodded in agreement, created a water ball to attack at any time, and waited for the enemy.....the water ball was fired at the moment he saw something move!

「Gyan~!」

A cry was heard in the vicinity where the water ball hit, several enemies appeared as if waiting. Their appearance was.....

「Stray dog.....no, wolf?」

What appeared were wolves about the height of Rei's knee's. The wolves had grey fur and there were 6 of them.

「Although the number is large, it's still better if you compare them to the Water Bear.」

At a glance, they were the same size as a normal dog and did not have a coat of water like the Water Bear. As for the difference between dogs and wolves, he felt that the combat strength of wolves was higher.

Grrr, the wolves glared at them to try to suppress them. At this chance, Rei hurriedly searched Zepairu's knowledge for information regarding the wolves.

But.....

「What?」

「Guru~?」

Set reacted to the voice Rei involuntarily leaked, Rei returned his line of sight to the wolves immediately while shaking his head.

While surveying the situation, Rei clicked his tongue. Though unlike the Water Bear, Zepairu had knowledge of the wolves in front of his eyes, they were not classified as monsters.

Demon, magic beast, monster. Although the names are numerous, they refer

to the same thing. That is, they all have a crystal called a magic stone in their heart. Still, though it is common to have the magic stone in the heart, some species are an exception.

Those with a magic stone, will aggressively attack those from species other than their own. It is one of the reasons they are called『Demons』。

However, the wolves before Rei were different. They are a common beast which does not have a magic stone.

This meant that even if he defeated the wolves, he wouldn't get any magic stones to help Set and his Death Scythe grow.

Also, a common beast with that has some sort of mutation, stayed a long time in a magic power rich area or has swallowed a magic stone, may establish a new magic beast in the ecosystem if it can leave offspring. The Water Bear that Rei and Set fought was probably like this.

(At least the meat can be saved for Set, the fur seems like it can be sold.....in that case)

Honestly, the rewards were very small compared to the battle required, he seriously wished they would leave them alone.

(That said, they can't understand our words. I guess there's no choice)

As he held the Death Scythe up.....it became impossible to endure the tension, one of the wolves dashed out to attack Rei. Tempted by it, the rest of the wolves also started to move, cries immediately rang out into the surrounding forest.

「Gya~!」

The moment the wolf kicked the ground and jumped up to attack Rei with its fangs, Set kicked it with his right forefoot.

Set was created with Rei's vast magic power, in addition, he was now equipped with the magic item Bracelet of Herculean Strength. Because it was hit by Set in that state, the wolf, which wasn't even a monster, naturally couldn't get away with it. It raised a terrified cry as it was blown away. Losing its head, the body collapsed to the ground dead.

「Haah!」

As for Rei, he thrust out the handle of the Death Scythe at a wolf which had jumped at the same time.

Rei knew how high his physical ability was from the fight against the Water Bear, he was able to fight the wolf while giving himself a slight margin for error.

「Gyan~!」

The handle of the Death Scythe that was thrust out pierced through the chest of the wolf. Rei turned to face another wolf that attacked him, waving the handle with wolf stuck on it. Naturally, the body of the wolf that had been pierced flew off and hit the wolf that jumped at him felling both.

「Gururururu~!」

Set fired a water ball to secure the final blow. Though it's power is low compared with the Water Bear, it still had enough power to reap the lives of the wolves.

「Three left. Set, we'll finish them in one go!」

「Gururu~!」

Set gave a sharp cry at Rei's words, one person and one animal moved forward at the same time.

「Garurururu」

As expected, after half of them died, the rest became cautious, the last 3 surrounded Rei. However, they still showed no sign of retreat.

「Gururu~!」

Set created another water ball. He fired it to restrain the wolves, the wolves were divided into groups of two and one. Rei thrust out. Shifting the Death Scythe to his left hand, he pulled the Mithril Knife with his right hand from his waist.

「Gaaa~!」

The wolf Rei aimed for sprung up to meet him. It aimed for the neck. From its long hunting experience, it knew that the person would die if it bit there.

「Let's do this!」

It's mouth opened, the knife in Rei's right hand was stabbed in and the fangs of the wolf cut.

Wolf or dog, it could not close its mouth until it could get rid of the object stuck deep inside its throat. Rei had done that because he knew. As for the Mithril Knife, with Rei's magic power, it had a sharpness close to those of rare swords.

「Gafu~」

As a result, the Mithril Knife was pushed far down the wolf's throat and was successful in cutting off the top half of the wolf's face.

「Gururururururu~!」

Set, watching the situation, gave an intimidating cry.

The number of wolves had decreased to two. The numerical advantage against Rei and Set had completely disappeared. Whether or not the wolves understood it, the remaining two animals suddenly turned around and single mindedly ran into the depths of the forest.

Rei watched them go without giving chase. It was natural. The wolves are beasts anyway and not a monster. Because of that, there wouldn't be a magic stone even if he killed it.

「Somehow we drove them away.」

「Guru~」

As Rei petted Set, he gave a low growl of gratitude, the bodies of the 5 wolves were stored in the Misty Ring. There were no magic stones but the meat and fur could be used. TLN: It seems that there were originally 7 wolves and Set killed one with a water ball before the others appeared, just a note for those who are confused as to why there are 5 bodies.

「But, this.....is a little troublesome.」

「Guru~?」

What's wrong? Set tilted his head. Rei answered while stroking Set's body.

「It's only been a few hours since we left the barrier and we've already been

attacked by the Water Bear and a pack of wolves?」

「Guru～」

「In other words, in the forest there are a lot more monsters and beasts than we expected. More than that, camping is accompanied by significant risk.」

Rei thought of different ideas while stroking Set's back. After a few minutes, he finally settled on an idea and looked into Set's face.

「I wonder, Set. Is it possible for you to run if I ride on your back? When thinking about the possibility of getting attacked while taking a rest, I want to quickly get out of the forest. Fortunately, we don't need to be worried about being attacked by dragons near the edge of the forest, if we can make that distance then we can fly.」

「Guru~!」

All right! Set moved his face to the ground and encouraged Rei to get on.

「Thanks. Because I can serve the meat of the Water Bear once we get out, do your best. Come on, eat this to moisten the throat.」

He removed a Clara Fruit from the Misty Ring and gave it to Set.

「Gururu～」

Raising a happy cry, Set ate the fresh fruit.

「Good, well, let's get out of the forest at once.....I'm counting on you.」

He quickly hopped onto Set's back, because the Death Scythe would become obstructive on Set's back, it was stored inside the Misty Ring, .

「Well, let's start!」

「Gururururu~!」

Raising a heroic cry, Set kicked the ground. The speed can be imagined if you think of the scenery flashing by in moments.

A wry smile floated on to Rei's face.

「I see, you held back to match my speed until now.」

「Guru~?」

What? Set seemed to ask as gave a cry. Rei scratched Set's head and told

him it wasn't anything.



# Chapter 8

As the night moonlight poured down, Set ran through the forest at full speed. It was a Griffon which held the characteristics of the eagle, the king of the sky, and the lion, the king of the beasts. In spite of the pale moonlight, Set's blue eyes relied on it to cut through the forest at a fast speed without any danger.

Rei admired the view as he rode on Set's back. He held out one of the few remaining Clara Fruits to Set as he stroked his neck.

「Guru～」

Set gave a joyful cry as he ran through the forest, chewing on the Clara Fruit in his beak with a crunching sound.

「According to Zeppairu's knowledge, we should have been out of the forest a long time ago.....」

Rei confirmed the surroundings as he muttered, the forest seemed to continue endlessly.

(Did the forest spread this far in a few hundred years? Well, with magic in this world, maybe it's possible.)

While muttering in his head, he could not stop the unpleasant feeling in his heart.

As if to ignore unpleasant feeling, he talked to Set while stroking his neck.

「Still, Set is amazing. You don't seem to be tired at all even though you've continued running since morning.」

「Guru～」

Because he was happy that Rei praised him, Set increased his speed further.

A wry smile floated on to Rei's face, he admired the physical ability of the Griffon as well as his simple mindedness.

Anyway, since Set started running, they had not been attacked once by beasts or monsters. At first, they encountered a monkey with three eyes, a wild boar with 50cm long fangs and rabbits with 1m long, blade like, ears. But they were

all shaken off as none of them could catch up with Set as he ran through the forest at high speed.

For Rei, the purpose of fighting the Water Bear and the wolves was to gain combat experience. He hadn't properly understood the physical properties of his body and he wanted to secure the magic stone to help the growth of Set and the Death Scythe.

But even though he was tempted to fight other monsters with Set after fighting with the Water Bear and the wolves, the highest priority goal was for Set to run and focus on exiting the forest.

「Gururu~!」

Then. Set abruptly gave a cry. Rei felt caution in the voice.

「Set, enemy?」

「Guru~」

Set gave a short cry at Rei's words.

However, it wasn't possible to find the enemies in the moonlight with Rei's eyes.

Still, to counter attack at any time, he pulled out the mithril knife from the sheath at his waist and readied it.

「Gururu~!」

As Set continued to run, he sharply turned his face to the left. At the same time, something came out from the darkness.

「Tch!」

He clicked his tongue as he reflexively used the Dragon Robe to catch the incoming object while protecting himself.

It was unfortunate for Rei that the attack was from the left. If it had attacked from the right, Rei, who was right handed, could have intercepted it with the mithril knife. Or maybe it was lucky for the unexpectedly small object that had hit Rei. Thanks to Set, he didn't roll off his back.

「Gyi~!」

The object that had been wrapped up in the Dragon Robe raised a cry. Putting the mithril knife in his his right hand into his mouth, he untangled the creature that was caught in the left side of the Dragon Robe and brought it before his eyes.

「This is, a flying squirrel?」

At first glance, it had the size and appearance of a squirrel, but something like a membrane could be seen between its hands and feet. Up to here, it was the same as the flying squirrel Rei knew. The difference was the tail. After all, a squirrel's tail should have large bushy fur, this tail was like a blade.

However, the blade like tail fortunately couldn't reach Rei as he held the body from the front.

「Gyiii~!」

It menacingly bared its fangs as Rei held its body. From Rei's judgement, the fangs growing from its mouth were about 3cm long, long enough for the Flying Blade Squirrel (provisional name) which was about 15cm long.

Since there wasn't enough time to leisurely search Zeppairu's knowledge in this situation, while holding the body in his left hand, he used his right hand to break its neck. After confirming that it was dead, he stored it inside the Misty Ring.

「Guru~!」

Set gave another sharp cry. Rei took the mithril knife that was in his mouth back into his hand and thrust it at the Flying Blade Squirrel that attacked from above.

With a guyuu~ sound, the mithril knife pierced the forehead of the Flying Blade Squirrel, Rei frowned, pulled the knife out and stored the corpse into the Misty Ring.

A few minutes later. Flying Blade Squirrels were coming out from everywhere, the tops of trees and bushes like knives. Catching them in his left forefoot, Set killed them and ate them with his sharp beak, tearing them from his claws. But, the Flying Blade Squirrels continued attack without caring if their companions died, the number of corpses increased as time went on.

「Damn, there's no end!」

Already accustomed to wielding it, the mithril knife flashed through the air. A Flying Blade Squirrel was bisected divided into the top and bottom half and fell to the ground, passing them in an instant.

In this situation, should he prepare a large scale fire magic and burn the whole area around them? Rei thought at the time.

TLN: JUST DO IT!

「Gurururururu~!」

Listening to Set's voice which was trying to draw attention, he redirected his line of sight. Then, in the view ahead, the thick trees which had grown endlessly finally broke.

「The exit, is it.」

While exhaling in relief, he quickly thrust the mithril knife at the body of a Flying Blade Squirrel that had attacked from a tree. After it ceased to breath, he stored it in the Misty Ring.

「Set, if we've come here, it's safe to fly. We'll leave the Flying Blade Squirrels behind in one go. Go!」

「Gururururu~!」

Ok, Set's high pitched cry seemed to say, the wings that had been folded in so far expanded. Even with a single wing, the wing size was near 2m.

For the run-up, enough speed had already been built up by running here. While at that speed, he flapped his wings greatly.....after a few seconds, Set kicked the ground and a floating sensation was felt, the figure of Set went above the trees in the thick forest.

The moonlight shined on the ground as there wasn't a single cloud in the sky. In such a night sky, Set flapped his wings and flew through the sky. Though it may be because it was night, there was nothing in the sky except for Rei and Set. From the private plane like view, Rei strongly recognized that this was a different world.

However, this state didn't continue for long.

「Gururururu~!」

Set gave a sharp cry as if to guard against something. When Rei heard the voice, his consciousness immediately returned and he observed the surroundings keenly.

「.....What?」

As Rei looked around, something entered his vision. Innumerable shadows emerged from the forest the same way that Set had come, shadows and shadows. Although he couldn't grasp the exact number because of the moonlight, the number was still around 100.

Looking at the size of the shadows, he reflexively understood what group was following them. They were no doubt the Flying Blade Squirrels that chased them relentlessly before.

(According to common sense, flying squirrels can only glide from high places, to be able to fly by themselves.....indeed this is a fantasy world. However, we have already gone out of the forest. In other words, we don't need to be worried about a fire like before. Until now, they've been chasing us relentlessly, now it's time to deal with them.)

The Death Scythe was removed from the Misty Ring. It was set up so as to not knock against Set's wings.

It was only the second day since Rei was reborn in this body. In addition to sitting on Set's back while flying, it was the first time he had used the Death Scythe on Set's back. If he used it unskillfully, he could injure Set's wings. The probability of surviving a fall from this height was very low.

It was different from the forest before. While holding the handle and pointing the 1m blade at the flock of Flying Blade Squirrels in pursuit of Set, he said an incantation.

Even though he said it wasn't in the forest, they are still in the sky above it. In other words, if wide area spell was used here, it was necessary to restrict the range to sky above the forest.

『Dancing flames, dance. Light up the surroundings with your magnificent dance, burn as you dance and captivate the people.』

The range of the spell was specified while saying the incantation. The last phrase was said.

『Dance Fire Snake!』

The world was rewritten with Rei's magic power and it's appearance was shown.

Hundreds of flames, ten times the size of humans, appeared and freely moved through the sky. As the flames moved through the air, the surroundings lit up brightly, it was surely a scene where you could say the flames were dancing. Though the Flying Blade Squirrels who were caught in the dancing flames continued to resist desperately, even if it boasted of a blade like tail and fangs, they couldn't show any effects against the flames. The bodies which had been completely burnt like cinder dropped to the earth. Though there were Flying Blade Squirrels that decided not to follow their companions and flew to the forest, most of them were caught by the dancing flame moving through the sky and were burnt to cinders in an instant. Still, several Flying Blade Squirrels succeeded in running away from the range of the magic Rei had specified. They ran to the forest without looking back.

A few minutes passed after using the magic. There were already no more Flying Blade Squirrels illuminated by the moonlight, with a click from Rei's fingers, the flames that had been created by magic disappeared as if they had never existed. The only things that remained were the fluttering of Set's wings as Rei rode on his back.

「Guru~」

Rei, who had been imagining fireworks as he looked at the magic was brought back by Set's voice.

「My bad, I was thinking of something.....yeah. For the time being, please move away from the forest. Then let's take a rest.」

「Gururu~!」

Set's cry echoed high in the night sky where Flying Blade Squirrels and flames had been a few minutes ago, as he flapped his wings, they left the forest.

Along the way, Rei anxiously searched Zepairu's knowledge for information

on the Flying Blade Squirrels. Same as the Water Bear, the information didn't exist.

(Why did it turn out like this? After the Water Bear, there's no information on this either, even if you say it has been several hundred years, there is a sense of incongruity. This, could it be.....)

A bad feeling went through Rei's chest, he determined that there wasn't any other way to check his suspicions, the Death Scythe was moved to accommodate it and a Flying Blade Squirrel removed from the Misty Ring.

He cut open the body of the Flying Blade Squirrel with the mithril knife that was at his waist. There was a magic stone several centimeters large in the heart.

「Monster, is it. But.....」

Rei recalled the previous battle. At that time, Set had bitten and consumed a considerable number of Flying Blade Squirrels. Naturally. the magic stones should have been absorbed by Set as well, however, he didn't have the memory of a skill announcement message appearing. Even when he checked Set's skills to be sure, it hadn't changed and only Water Ball Lv.1 was displayed there.

Wondering about this, Rei searched Zepairu's knowledge again.

According to it, it seems that learning a skill didn't necessarily occur if a magic stone was consumed. In other words, acquiring Water Ball after only consuming the magic stone of the Water Bear was an exception.

Also, there was the newly discovered fact that it was almost impossible to get an ability from a magic stone if the monster was too weak.

# Chapter 9

About 20 minutes after getting out of the forest, they arrived at a wide grassland. Getting off at a particularly big rock, Rei let out a big breath.

「I feel relieved for now, something like that.」  
「Guru~」

He sat down on the grass while leaning against the rock. Set came and rubbed his head while giving a deep cry.

A smile floated on to his face as Rei scratched his head.

「Set, I was somehow able to get out of the forest thanks to you.」  
「Gururu~」

Don't mind it, the cry seemed to say.

「We will stay here tonight for now. We'll look for people, a village or a town tomorrow. ....However, according to Zepairu's knowledge, there doesn't seem to be any towns or villages in this area .....well, what to do.」

Doubt spread in his heart. There was no information in Zepairu's knowledge on either the Water Bear or the Flying Blade Squirrel.

Certainly, if there was a gap of several hundred years, the information might be imperfect. However, he wondered why there was no information on the two monsters they successively met in the area. There was information on the wolves as they were a common beast, so the knowledge wasn't completely untrustworthy. Also, the size of the forest was different. According to Zepairu's knowledge, the forest should have been smaller. It took him riding on Set a bit less than 10 hours to get out.....it wasn't the same scale

「Guru~?」  
「Oh well. There's no use worrying. For the time being, let's just eat something and prepare for tomorrow. Set, bring me the tree over there.」

Glancing at a medium sized tree which had fallen over, he asked Set to bring it over, he then took the arm parts of the Water Bear out of the Misty Ring.



He took out the bear paws because from his own knowledge he had a faint memory that the meat there was delicious.

The right arm of the Water Bear that was taken out was chopped into pieces by the mithril knife, he then pierced the meat with branches from nearby dead trees.

「Gururururu~」

When about 10 meat skewers were made, Set came back, rolling a fallen tree with his forefeet.

Looking at the situation, he was impressed by Set's strength. He took out the Death Scythe from the Misty Ring while.

「This is the first time I've cut firewood with a scythe.....I wonder what Zepairu would say if he knew.」

While smiling wryly, he poured magic power into the blade. One strike, two strikes, three strikes, the fallen tree was cut into small firewood pieces .

After a sufficient amount had been gathered, he casted a spell to prepare a fire.

『Fire, gather on my fingertips. Small Flame』

A flame appeared and spread to the firewood. The bear meat skewers that where made before were stabbed into the ground a moderate distance from the fire. With that the camp preparations were complete.

Because there were no camping gear such as sleeping bags or tents in the Misty Ring, the fire became their friend for the night.

「Gururu~」

The flames immediately began to cook the meat. As Set smelled the appetizing fragrance, he drifted closer to Rei.

I can't wait, Set seemed to say. With a wry smile, Rei gave him some of the raw meat that hadn't been skewered.

「Eat this for now until the meat is cooked.」

「Guru~」

Taking the raw meat with his beak, he swallowed it after chewing a few times. He then pleaded at Rei with his blue eyes for another piece of meat.

(If you eat like a human, you better chew well. I wonder about Griffons.)

He fed Set like this for about 5 minutes. At last, the meat was cooked by the fire, he pulled the skewer out of the ground and bit into juicy meat.

It was the first time Rei had tasted an overwhelmingly mellow meat. Before, Rei had eaten some bear meat from a bear which had been killed by a hunter who lived close by. His impression at the time was『Well, it's not unpalatable..... I think?』 or something like that. The bear meat that Rei knew and the meat of the Water Bear was so different in taste that he could have mistaken it for something else. When he dismantled the body and took out the magic stone, the blood had been drained. The faint smell of blood that remained, added with the peculiar taste of wild meat, gave a rich flavour.

His only regret was that it was purely a meat taste as there was absolutely no seasoning. The flavour was likely to change even with a little bit of salt.

In fact, Rei didn't know, but the meat of higher level monsters tended to be more delicious because of their magic power. But in the end, a tendency is still a tendency, there were monsters with unpalatable meat even if their magic power was high, there also existed delicious meat from low level monsters. In a sense, he was also lucky to that the first meat he ate was the meat of a Water Bear.

「Gururu~」

Giving one to himself, he held out a skewer to Set, who pushed his face closer and took the meat off dexterously with his beak. Rei considered situation for a moment as he looked at the meat in Set's mouth. Satisfied with his meal, he then took out a Clara Fruit, as a replacement for dessert, and bit into it.

Quickly eating the sweet and sour fruit flesh and juice, Rei stood up and held the Death Scythe horizontally as Set had his eyes glued to the raw meat that was left.

「Guru~?」

Set noticed Rei's gaze, but went back to focusing on the meat after

determining there was no danger in the surroundings.

Smiling wryly at Set's actions, he moved a bit further away. Leaning the Death Scythe against a rock nearby, he began to stretch to ascertain the condition of his body.

Although the body of Reiji in his memory had a decent flexibility, Rei's body was even more flexible than expected.

Firstly, he could touch the ground with his palms without bending his knees, in addition, he still had room to spare.

Then, for a few minutes, he did some suitable stretches that he had learnt in junior high school and high school.

「Now, with this I'm warmed up.」

Saying so, he took the Death Scythe which had been leaning against a rock and took a stance using both hands.

「Hah!」

One yell, one strike. The blade of the Death Scythe split the sky. However, he felt something was off and set the Death Scythe up again while tilting his neck.

「Hah!」

Again, one yell, one strike. This time, the twist of the body was different from before. When he swung the Death Scythe down, he consciously turned his waist, this was done to accurately transmit the motion to the Death Scythe.

「Well, something like this.」

Understanding how to handle the Death Scythe, he then did two different swings. Side sweeping from left to right and sweeping inversely from right to left. He then endlessly tried any swings he could come up with, such as scooping from below, tirelessly.

He persisted in this state for about 30 minutes. At first, he handled the Death Scythe awkwardly with brute force. But as time went on, the handling became increasingly smooth. It can be imagined that if soldiers and swordsmen could see the speed, they would be jealous.

The Death Scythe was swung down and stopped just before hitting the ground, he then flipped the blade back up and to the right.

If that series of attacks was used against a human, they would first be cut diagonally by the scythe, their right arm would then be cut off by the next strike and their neck separated from their body with one sweep.

The scythe was then moved continuously, sometimes he would do tricky movements and use the handle as a spear like against the Water Bear. After a while, he became used to the handling of the Death Scythe.

At first, Rei stopped after one swing before swinging again, now there was no awkward movement, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that it was now like a sword dance. A single sweep of the blade was sharp and cut through the air, the handle had enough power to penetrate through low quality armour with a single blow.

Rei focused and continued the movements which were like a sword dance of death. As his movements sharpened.....

「Haaaaatsu~!」

With one yell and one strike, the Death Scythe stopped and was placed beside him.

「Phew, I've roughly accustomed myself to it.」

It was already a few hours since he started training with the Death Scythe. Even though he used the ability of the Death Scythe and could hardly feel its weight, Rei had continued to swing around the large scythe without once taking a break.

「As expected of the body that the world's best magicians crafted. You can continue to keep moving without losing your breath.」

Although there was a bit of sweat on his forehead, it was something you could barely see.

Returning to the camp fire with the Death Scythe, Set was about to toss a piece of firewood in with his beak. All the meat had already been eaten off the Water Bear's right arm, the only remains were the bones which rolled on the

ground.

「Gururu～」

Welcome back, Set gave a short cry as he saw Rei.

Unlike normal Griffons, Set had an intellect similar to or higher than humans because of Rei's extraordinary magic power. This might be evidence that he could understand Rei's words. While Rei was confirming his physical specifications, Set, who wanted to be spoiled, endured patiently as he knew his master was training to use the unwieldy weapon that was the Scythe.

So.

「Set, can you make some water?」

「Gururu!」

When asked by his much loved Rei, he used Water Ball happily.

The water ball that Set created floated buoyantly and stopped in front of Rei. Rei put his hand in and scooped water out to wash his face.

「.....Ah, damn it. There isn't a towel.」

He immediately noticed his mistake and decided to leave the water on his hands to dry naturally.

「Guru～」

Set gave a spoiled cry as Rei sat down on the ground and leaned his body against him.

While rubbing Set's head, he began to think of tomorrow's schedule.

(For now, we will still look for a town or village as originally intended.....but which way to go? Fortunately or not, we haven't discovered anything that could be called a highway after leaving some distance from the forest. In the end, we may have to treat the forest like some sort of new frontier.)

Even if you said that he inherited the knowledge of Zepariu, things like a map of Japan or a world map were not included. He could roughly state where the next country was, it was over the mountain range.....however, it was only information.

And even such information was several hundred years old and could not be used as a reference in the current situation.

(If my bad feeling is correct, most of Zepairu's knowledge is likely to be useless.)

There was no information on the monsters we met or on the difference in the size of the forest. When thinking about it, it is likely that hundreds more years have passed than what Zepairu said.

「Well, this can be ascertained if we go to a town or village.」  
「Guru~?」

What's wrong, Set seemed to say. Rei shook his head and said it wasn't much while scratching his head.

「Anyway, that's tomorrow. Let's look for a place with people when tomorrow morning comes.」

「Guru~」

「Can I count on you for the lookout?」

「Guru~!」

Leave it to me, Set gave a cry. After hearing that, Rei was wrapped in silky feathers and fell asleep in the comfortable warmth.

# Chapter 10

When the morning sun had risen, Set shook Rei's body, which was leaning against him, and gave a cry to wake him.

「Nn? Set.....is it?」  
「Guru~」

When he looked around while rubbing his eyes, he understood that it was early morning as the sun could already be seen.

「Morning. ....I was able to sleep better than I thought.」

While saying so, he got up to ascertain the condition of his body. He had moved around a lot just before sleeping but he didn't have any muscle pains.

「Gururu~」

He turned around at Set's voice, a water ball was floating there. It was for him to wash his face.

「Thanks.」

Rei briefly said thanks. After washing his face, he left it to dry naturally as the night before.

He then cooked some Water Bear meat for breakfast at the campfire, which was still burning as Set had looked after it while he was asleep. Sharing the last two Clara Fruits, the preparations for departure were complete.

「Well, I think we should leave soon.....you were on lookout last night, are you physically okay?」  
「Guru~」

No problems at all, Set cried in response to Rei's question.

Although a normal Griffon would show some fatigue if it stayed up all night, Set was a Griffon made with Rei's vast magic power using the Magic Beast Art. He could stay up for a week without problems, let alone one night. Of course, he would have to spend the next few days resting if he did that.

「I see. Then let's go immediately.」

「Guru~」

Like the time in the forest, Set lowered his back and urged Rei to get on. While holding the Death Scythe, Rei gently stroked Set's back to show his appreciation.

「Gurururururururu~!」

With a high pitched cry, he flapped his wings, took a run up of several steps and went up into the sky. After reaching a sufficient altitude, Set turned his neck around to look at Rei, who was sitting on his back.

「Guru~?」

Which way to go? Rei pointed south when Set asked. Although he didn't know if it was reliable, Zepairu's knowledge indicated that if they kept going south for a few days, there would be a large town.....so it said.

Rei had already judged Zepairu's knowledge as unreliable and only thought of it as a reference. But still, there was a difference between having a reference and not having one.

「To the south.」

「Gururu~!」

Set gave a sharp cry in response to Rei's words and flapped its wings to take a path straight south.

「.....Amazing」

Looking at the view from Set's back, he unintentionally said those words.

Extending before Rei's eyes was a blue sky and an endless green carpet. Human constructs such as towns and villages could not be seen as far as the eyes could see.

Even if he said he was born in and grew up in a country town in Tohoku, there naturally were houses in the vicinity. The town could still be commuted to by bicycle. To Rei, the world of nature that extended before his eyes was the first he had seen in his life.

「Gurururu~」



Maybe understanding that Rei was happy to see such scenery from the sky, Set gave a delighted cry and flapped his wings greatly, soaring through the sky.

「.....Hmm, I should think of an identity instead of being kept fascinated.」

To begin with, the only knowledge he had of the world was from Zepairu. And as he was unwilling to rely on Zepairu's knowledge, he wasn't sure how to create an identity for himself. Rei judged so while half watching the scenery and half working on thinking up a background.

(Firstly, since I have to live as an adventurer, I must be a magician. Because of Set, I must also have a background either as a summoner or a tamer. That background feels a bit simple.....)

In the novels, movies and manga that he had seen so far, he recalled something with similar content.

(Amnesia.....ha, that's impossible because of Set. Was I sent to a place I don't know due to recklessly using teleportation magic? Perhaps that would work..... no, wait.)

A thought crossed Rei's mind at that moment. It was a manga he had read as Saeki Reiji where a wizard's apprentice was sent travelling to train himself

The story could fit his current circumstances.

(Because I lived in a secluded place with my master, I'm ignorant about the world.....OK. I learnt my magic from my master, not summoning magic but fire magic.....ha, it would be troubling if I was asked to summon anything other than Set, maybe I'll be a tamer. According to Zepairu's knowledge, tamers seem to exist. So, the general story is that I was teleported by my master to a strange place by space magic for teaching and training purposes, while I was wandering and hunting with my magic beast partner Set, I found a town or village.)

While thinking if there were any contradictions in his thoughts, he muttered softly.

「I shouldn't have any problems.」

Thinking about it, the large weapon, the Death Scythe could be said to be something which directly trained the magician, the large scythe had a magic

body.....so it partially true. Because of training purposes he was sent out with no money. Other than Rei, Set was also equipped with a set of expensive magic items so there were a number of strange points. However, Rei nodded without minding it as he was satisfied that the background was persuasive enough.

After several hours, he determined his background. Without anything in particular to do, Rei sat on Set's back and enjoyed the air travel.

For a while, Rei enjoyed the scenery from the sky, but as expected, he became tired of watching the same endless scenery for hours. Things like monsters attacking merchants or thieves robbing a noble's carriage. Alternatively, an adventurer being attacked by monsters was a development that existed as well, reality wasn't so sweet, nothing happened and he was left swaying on Set's back.

After a few hours. The sun had almost risen to noon, Rei began thinking of searching for monsters to eat.

「Gurururururu~!」

Set raised a cry to draw attention.

「What's wrong」

「Guru~」

To Rei's question, Set looked ahead. Following his line of sight, human constructions could clearly be seen.....rather than saying that, there were a lot of houses. It was neither a village or town, it seemed to be a considerably large city where tens of thousands of people could live. Probably for anti-monster measures, the city was a walled city with high walls.

As he caught sight of the city, Rei let out a sigh.

「What to say, maybe it was as expected.....the city wasn't in Zepairu's knowledge, if several hundred years have passed, a city of that scale could be built. In that case, let's enter the city and gather some information.」

As expected, the city was near. Under his eyes, he could see roads leading to the city. That said, the roads that were trod on by people and wagons were not covered with concrete but with a natural stone pavement. People could be seen trickling along the roads.

(Well, what to do. Firstly, I'll probably be rejected, no questions asked, if I entered with Set from the sky. Best way is to quietly enter through the entrance.....if I get off Set in the near vicinity the gate keeper will probably be cautious. This is rejected as well. Then I'll land a bit further away and from there walk to the city with Set.)

While determining his method, the people on the road below raised voices of surprise as they pointed at Set.

「Set, land on the ground once we get a bit further. We will head to the city by walking, not flying.」

「Guru~」

Giving a small cry at Rei's request, Set flapped his wings greatly and headed towards the city. After a few minutes, Set and Rei decided to stop their air travel about 10 minutes from the city and and walk the remaining distance.

After Set and Rei landed on the ground, they walked to the road leading to the city. Probably because they saw Set land nearby, travelers, merchant and adventurers moved a considerable distance away from the figures of the lone person and animal as they headed to the city,

(I see, there are adventurers. Basically, it's the old story where several people form a group to conduct activities. Weapons are spears, swords and bows. Eh, is that a magician with the cane?)

As Rei walked alone the beaten road, he observed the appearances of the adventurers nearby. Although he didn't realize it, the adventurers noticed that there were being observed and, maybe because they were wary of the Griffon, Set, they also watched Rei.

Such a state continued for about 10 minutes, finally, the entrance to the city came into view. It could be said that naturally or unexpectedly, there were 5 soldiers armed with spears and swords guarding.

「.....」

As he did not come to mess with them, Rei approached the soldiers in silence. Set followed him and walked quietly. The soldiers watched the lone person and animal approach, abruptly, one of the soldiers walked towards Rei. The feeling

of tension spread to the surroundings as the soldier approached Rei.

(Compared to the soldiers in their twenties, this person is in his thirties to forties. Perhaps he is the leader of the soldiers. Weapons.....though they're equipped with swords, there probably isn't much risk as they are still sheathed at their waists.)

The middle aged man with a beard met Rei's expectations and called out to him.

「I am Ranga, a guard captain of the city of Girumu. May I ask if you have business in the city?」

Despite the rugged appearance, an unexpectedly mild voice came from his mouth. While puzzled about the sense of incongruity, Rei nodded.

「Ah. That's right.」

「I see. Can I listen to to your story in the guard room? Everyone is nervous since you brought a rank A monster, Griffon, with you.」

Taking a brief glance, most of the people in the surroundings were looking at Rei and Set. ....More than that, most of them, adventurers included, looked away when Rei looked at them.

(Certainly, it seem that they were scared of Set as expected. In that case, there's no meaning even if I force my way through. The faster way is to explain myself in the guardroom.)

Letting out a sigh in his mind, he nodded to the man's words.

「I understand. It would be better in a quiet place as you said.」

「I'm sorry about that. The boss would be mad if I let someone who brought a high ranked monster Griffon through. Also, it's necessary to give documents to the Margrave.」

Ranga explained the situation in a light tone, not suited to his rugged face. Apparently, the mild voice he had used at their first meeting a little while ago was just the way he was and not deliberately used because he was wary of Rei and Set.

Following Ranga's guidance, they went to a small build beside the gate.

「Um, I'm sorry but because of its size can I ask the Griffon to wait outside?」  
「Ah, it doesn't matter. Set.」

As Rei talked with Ranga, he called to Set. Set, who had been standing quietly behind Rei, joyfully rubbed his face as his head was scratched.

「Because I have to talk a while in that building, Set, take a rest near the building.」  
「Guru~?」

All right? Set seemed to say with his blue eyes as he nodded.

「I'll be fine. You've seen my ability you know?」  
「Guru~」

Maybe relieved at Rei's words, Set lay down on the grass next to the guardroom. After staying up all night and flying here non stop, there was some fatigue, he slowly closed his eyes.

Naturally, he was still alert. Set's specifications were overwhelming compared with the average Griffon. He had an exceptional sense of smell and vision. It wasn't difficult to rest his body while remaining vigilant because of his magic power.

「I'll say it once for now, I don't want anyone to meddle with him when you're listening to my story in the guardroom.」

「Ah, I understand of course. I don't think anyone would be stupid enough to anger a rank A monster. However, you're right.....You.」

Ranga called a soldier that was nearby.

「What is it?」  
「While I'm talking with him in the guardroom, keep watch so that no one tries to meddle with the Griffon.」  
「.....Eh? Me?」  
「Yes. You.」  
「.....I understand.」

Reluctantly, the soldier nodded.

(Well, I can understand since it is a rank A monster.)

Though he didn't know what rank Set was, he predicted that rank A was fairly dangerous as he saw the state of the soldier guards.

A wry smile floated to his face as he saw the soldier's appearance. Rei opened his mouth to speak.

「Unless Set is badly annoyed, he won't do anything, there's no danger.」

「Haa.....I'll believe your words.」

「Then, let's go to the guardroom immediately.....before you go, here.」

Ranga handed Rei a cloth that seemed to come from nowhere. Not knowing what it was for, Rei received it while raising his eyebrows. Although he thought about it, he simply decided to ask Ranga what it was for.

「What do I do with this white cloth?」

「.....You. Where you planning to enter the city with the scythe as it is? Wouldn't it be the same as a person carrying an unsheathed sword? Aside from spears, such a big blade just.....I can't overlook this situation.」

「.....I understand.」

The explanation was reasonable.

# Chapter 11

Entering the guardroom, Ranga prompted Rei to sit in a chair. Because Set wasn't here, he leaned the Death Scythe against a chair so that it could be used at any time.

As a wry smile floated on to his face, Ranga poured a cup of water from a jug and took a sip to show that there was nothing strange in it before giving it to Rei.

「Sorry about this.」

As he hadn't eaten or drank anything while riding on Set, Rei gulped the water down in one mouthful.

Cold.....though the temperature wasn't great, it still felt good because he was thirsty.

「How about another cup?」

「Yes thanks.」

Pouring another cup of water, Ranga finally sat down opposite Rei.

「Well, what should I hear first. No, let's go with the self introductions first. Although I said this earlier, my name is Ranga and I'm serving as a guard captain in this city of Girumu.」

「My name is Rei. The Griffon out the front is Set.」

With the short self introduction over, Ranga finally spoke about the main subject.

「Is that so, first of all, we'll start with this question. What is your purpose in the city of Gimuru.」

「I want to know something before answering the question. This city of Gimuru you mentioned. Is there an Adventurers Guild here?」

According to Zepairu's knowledge, there would be a branch office of the Adventurers Guild if it was a big city. However, Zepairu's knowledge had been relegated by Rei to be used as a reference only. And.....

「Naturally of course. It is common to have branch offices of the Adventurers Guild in small villages, is there any reason why there wouldn't be one in this city of Gimuru?」

Naturally there are, Ranga said as he nodded.

(I thought so. With this it's definite. Zepairu's knowledge is.....quite old. I should check how much error there is later.

He started to speak while letting out a sigh in his mind.

「That's good. After all, I've only been living with my master since I was born. I'm ignorant of the state of society. As for my purpose, that's easy. I came to become an adventurer.」

「.....Judging from your question a little while ago, you didn't even know if there was an Adventurers Guild branch in the city?」

Although his tone is soft, not missing the feeling of a lie, Ranga asked another question.

On the other hand, Rei lightly shrugged his shoulders.

「I said it just before, I've been living with my master since I was born. Because my master was crazy about magic, I'm quite ignorant about common sense.」

「.....Magic (majutsu)? Wait, magic (maho)?」

TLN: Okay, this gets a bit confusing, the two words used here are Majutsu and Maho, technically they both mean magic. However the first one has the character for Art in it while the second one has the character for Method. Because of this, I'll put which one it is referring to in brackets.

Ranga asked curiously. In this respect again, the unreliability of Zepairu's knowledge became apparent again.

「Magic (maho)? My master called it magic (majutsu).....is it called magic (maho) here?」

「.....I see. You certainly don't know much about the world. It was called magic (majutsu) several hundred years ago. Nowadays, that name isn't used much and is instead called magic (maho).」

Several hundred years. Rei, who frowned his eyebrows, immediately continued



his story.

「It that is true, then my master is certainly ignorant to a great extent.....well, I was told to go out to train and was sent away with space magic (majutsu) ..... no, how to put it, I was teleported to a strange place I don't know and it wasn't very funny.」

「Training?」

「Ah. After I mastered basic magic (maho), my master told me to train myself to improve my power.」

「I see, so you want to be an adventurer for that reason. By the way, is the Griffon outside from your magic (maho)?」

Rei shook neck after taking a sip of water.

「Set doesn't follow me by magic. Have you heard of a skill called tamer?」

「It's a skill to tame a monster. Then, in that case?」

「That's right.」

「Un, so it's not summoning magic. ....In that case.....」

Ranga started to think after listening to Rei's words.

Rei had a bad feeling about the silence. Ranga opened his mouth to speak.

「There are adventurers who more or less tame monsters in the city. However, even then, they were rank D monsters I think. For a rank A monster, Griffon..... there are no adventurers.」

Though Ranga said so, for Rei who didn't have a concrete understanding of the world, the difference between rank A and D wasn't very clear. However, he expected that it was ranked by fighting power and danger.

「Also with that, though I digress, you also have to pay taxes to enter the town.」

In this world of Elgin, one silver coin equals ten copper coins. One gold coin is ten silver coins. One platinum coin is ten gold coins and ten platinum coins is one light gold coin.

For Rei to explain it in simple terms, one copper coin is 100 yen, one silver coin is 1,000 yen, one gold coin is 10,000, one platinum coin is 100,000 yen and one light gold coin is one million yen. TLN: The largest currency literally

translates to light gold and I can't figure out if it is something the author made up or is referring to a material I don't know, the previous one was white gold or platinum.

「So, with the exception of adventurers, both merchants and travelers have to pay a tax of one silver coin to enter the city every time. 」

Adventurers not being charged tax was a simple story, that is because adventurers don't use the city as their home. Though it is natural is you think about it, if there is a request, it is necessary to go in and out of the city. Paying one silver coin every time they entered would cost a lot. Therefore, the nobles that ruled the city gave an exemption to taxes if an adventurer who belonged to the Adventurers Guild showed their guild card. This is because the return they get from adventurers returning requests is greater than one silver coin.

On a side note, the idea originally spread because a certain avaricious lord refused exemption of taxes for adventurers in the territory he governed. Because of this, all the adventurers left the territory of the lord and new adventurers didn't come. As a result, all the people who could receive monster subjugation quests were gone, and in a vicious circle, merchants who heard about it didn't come either .....the lord was surprised that the tax revenue had decreased and forcibly collected more taxes, it caused the people to revolt and in the end, the lord was killed. After the story spread, the exemption of adventurers from tax became an unwritten law.

When Rei heard the story from Ranga, he unintentionally let out a sigh.

「In other words, at present, I'm still not an adventurer. Therefore, tax is necessary?」

「That is so. Didn't you receive a parting gift from your master?」

Rei shook his head slightly in response to Ranga's question. In the first place, he couldn't receive a parting gift because his master didn't exist to begin with.

「Un, what to do. If possible, I would lend you money but it's prohibited by the law.....」

Ranga gazed at Rei while muttering.

In Ranga's position, he couldn't afford to let a suspicious person into the city.

However, the person in front of him, called Rei, didn't seem to be a bad person. If the rank A monster Griffon and the large scythe could be used, then he must be a skilled person. The position of the city of Gimuru was on the frontier and there are a considerable amount of monster subjugation quests. If there are skilled adventurers, they can protect the city. He didn't want to miss a skilled person right before his eyes.

Furthermore, at the moment, the city of Gimuru was a frontier city located in the Mireana kingdom, a powerhouse in the central part of the continent of Elgin.

「That's right. Is there anything you have that you can sell? It's possible for me to sell it in a store in the city for you.」

「Things that I can sell.....hey.」

To Ranga's question, he suddenly thought of the items that were given by Zepairu's organization and stored inside the Misty Ring. Other than magic items, there were also a lot of materials such as the bones and scales of dragons. However, as expected, he hesitated about selling them. At present, Rei's position was a commoner that wanted to become an adventurer. He was 165cm tall and had a small back. It would be suspicious if he took out materials and items that would be considered legendary class. He also had the desire to turn the materials into equipment for himself and Set.

(.....No, wait?)

Thinking about it, he suddenly got an idea. Though the items in the Misty Ring that he got from Zepairu couldn't be sold easily, it was different if it was something he obtained himself.

「How about this?」

From the list in his mind, he took out the corpses of 20 Flying Blade Squirrels and the fur of the Water Bear.

「Th-this is.....you have an item box!? These are the Djarum that build nests near the edge of the forest of monsters, and isn't the the fur of a Water Bear and that lives in it! 」

TLN: Here, Ranga refers to the Water Bear as uōtābea, up to now, Rei has

referred to it as Mizukuma, which translated means Water Bear. Just a note as it gets a bit confusing ahead.

An expression of surprise appeared on Ranga's face when Flying Blade Squirrels – Djarums – and the fur of the Water Bear suddenly appeared out of nowhere.

Still, although Rei didn't quite understand, the type of magic item called item box, such as the Misty Ring, must be rare, as for those with a storage capacity such as the Misty Ring, there were few enough to be counted on one hand.

「This, I'm wondering.....did you.....kill them?」

「Ah. I ran into a Water Bear after being teleported into the forest.....did you say Water Bear? It started to attack but with Set I was able to take it down somehow. Anyway, it took more time than expected because it was the first time I fought.」

Rei nodded with a wry smile at the naming of the Water Bear, it seems that the name was the same as the literal description in his mind.

「Then, the place you were sent to was the forest of monsters. Although there are a few forests in the area, only the forest of monsters have confirmed sightings of Djarums and Water Bears.」

「Forest of monsters?」

「Ah. Though there are many low rank monsters, the forest is regarded as a dangerous place as it is inhabited by high rank monsters. Because monsters rarely come out from the forest, adventurers are unwilling to go into it. Though sometimes people will go if the material of a specific monster needs to be obtained. Even then, it's unbelievable to be able to defeat a rank C Water Bear in your first fight.」

「Well, I don't mind if you try to imagine it. So, can this fur and the Djarums be bought?」

「Ah, ahh. I can arrange it immediately.」

Ranga returned to his senses at Rei's words, called several subordinates over and sent them into the city with the fur and Djarums. After doing that, he turned to bow at Rei.

「I'm very sorry. Because the assessment and purchase is time consuming I

have to make you wait a while here in the guardroom」

「Don't mind it. I brought a Griffon over and couldn't pay the tax but you still recieved me warmly. There isn't anything to be unhappy about.」

「Thank you, I feel better now that you said that.」

Ranga had a wry smile on his face, originally he was polite because if tried to intimidate the other party, who had a rank A Griffon, he didn't stand a chance of beating it.....though it is true that Ranga himself didn't like rough methods.

The method worked out well for him this time.

Rei and Ranga continued the small talk in the guardroom.....an hour passed since the beginning of the questioning. After the time for lunch was over and the afternoon shift began, the soldiers which had gone to sell the fur and Djarums returned.

「Captain, we've just returned. Here is the money we got from selling the goods.」

Ranga passed a small bag, that the soldier had given him, to Rei.

「This, usually the fur of a Water Bear is worth 7 gold coins, but because the fur was a bit damaged, they only gave 5 gold coins. Because the Djarum haven't been dismantled, they gave a total 7 gold coins and 1 silver coin after the cost of dismantling.」

According to the soldier's words, there were 7 gold coins in the bag.

(7 gold coins.....in other words, 70,000 yen. That's a bit less than expected.)

Though Rei clicked his tongue in his mind, he can only blame himself for his mistakes during the dismantling.

He took out one gold coin and passed it to Ranga.

「Yes, that is enough for the tax. Here is 9 silver coins change. Also, put this necklace on Griffon where it can be seen when you walk through the streets. It shows that the monster you brought into the city is tamed or summoned. If a tamed or summoned monster acts violently or damages property, the punishment is directed against the master. In addition, I recommend the inn Dusk Wheat, it is in the eastern part of town and can accommodate animals the

size of Griffons. I mean, it's the only inn that can house Griffons.」

「I understand. By the way, where is the Adventurers Guild?」

「When you enter the city, you will see it at once if you go down the main street.」

「Thanks for everything.」

「No worries. So, welcome to the city of Gimuru. I hope you enjoy it here.」

With that, Ranga sent Rei out of the guardroom.

# Chapter 12

The main street in the city of Gimuru. It was currently buzzing with noise and voices.

No, that was the usual situation, there wasn't anything strange about it. The difference was the man at the center of the buzz – although boy may be more correct – and the Griffon that was with him.

「Gururu~」

Worried glances could be seen from the surroundings. Set gave a small cry. The moment the cry was heard, the surroundings immediately became quiet, but soon the noise started up again.

However, it wasn't unreasonable. A rank A monster, Griffon, was walking majestically through the town after all. One of the two necklaces worn around its neck clearly showed that it was a tamed or summoned monster. If it was a wild Griffon, all the commoners in the main street would have run and adventurers, knights and soldiers would be facing it with weapons drawn.

「Don't worry about it. If you don't do anything, they won't do anything either.」

Rei said while scratching Set's head. From the patterns, Rei was wearing an expensive high quality robe. He was also holding a scythe with a 2m long handle and a 1m long blade. Even if Set wasn't there, there was no doubt he would still be the center of attraction.

In addition, although the robe he was wearing was a top class item called Dragon Robe, produced by the alchemist Esta Nord, most people wouldn't see as a magic item. Because of that, it didn't stand out as a magic item when people looked at it.

The noise continued for 10 minutes as they walked down the street. Finally, a building with big sign that said Adventurers Guild came into Rei's sight, as told by Ranga.

「Set, because there's a waiting place for animals and horse carriages, wait for

me there. Make sure the necklace can be seen. If someone tries to do something to you, it's okay if you injure them.」

「Guru～」

Set nodded at Rei's voice. The people in the surrounding area had cramped cheeks when they heard Rei's words.

Sending Set to the specified location, Rei headed towards the Adventurers Guild.

「Now, where should I go.」

With a creaking sound, he opened the door to the building. Then, an unexpected view entered Rei's eyes. Rowdy people gathered in great numbers, some drinking Sake and some arguing, sometimes a voice would raise vulgar laughter. ....Though Rei expected such a scene, it was different from his expectations. There were definitely places for food and drink in the Adventurers Guild, but there were only about 5 people who looked like adventurers, a few more people were drinking but most seats were vacant.

「Welcome. What business do you have here?」

While Rei curiously looked around the guild, a voice suddenly called out to him. When he turned his eyes in the direction of the voice, there were several receptionists, one of them had called out to Rei.

As expected of the receptionists, who are the face of the Adventurers Guild, they were all beautiful women with great figures. There were beast people with dog ears and cat ears, there was also a woman with sharp ears like an elf. Naturally of course, there were also humans. Among them, a human receptionist with brown hair tied up in a ponytail had called out to Rei.

「I would like to register with the guild.....」

When Rei said that aloud, a voice abruptly came from the direction of the people that had been drinking.

「Gyahaha! This isn't a place for a poor kid like you to come! Shouldn't you be in mommy's skirt?」

「Oi oi, Vargas. Don't tease him. See, everyone is looking. You'll surprise everyone if you put out that voice.」



「Boy, it might be a bit early for you to register at the age of 10.....no, 15. Do you think you can be an adventurer with that frail body?」

「That's right. That weapon is only large, there's no meaning to try to bluff monsters.」

「Oi, Calum. Don't cause an unnecessary commotion during the celebration.」

Although the sober one out of the 5 tried to stop the remaining 4, they were already very drunk. They didn't care about their friend's words and continued to jeer at Rei.

(This is a common development in novels. There weren't any nobles or merchants attacked by bandits when I came to the city of Gimuru but I wonder if events involving the Adventurers Guild can occur. Thinking back, there may have been a reward if I helped a party attacked by bandits, but if the other party are drunk men.....no, wait? The last man said something about celebration. A celebration in a bar attached to the guild, there's no mistake, they must have just finished a quest and came here to celebrate. In that case.....)

「Huh」

Rei directed his line of sight to the jeering men as if they were rubbish before giving a scornful laugh and turning towards the receptionist.

「You there, did you just laugh at us just now!?!」

「Little shit! You don't know your position even though you're a novice who just came to register with the guild? Aa!?!」

「Oi oi, calm down Vargas, you too Zorito. Afterall, as Zorito said, isn't he just a novice who came to register? Stop being so unreasonable.」

「However, advising the novices is the job of the seniors.」

With 4 people saying things like that while one person hung his head. Rei ignored the 5 people and spoke to the receptionist.

「So, is it possible to register with the guild?」

「E, eh. Sign your name, age and special skills that can be used in combat on the form here, do you need me to write for you?」

「No, it's okay.」

In return to the receptionists words, he picked up the pen.

(Aside from the letters, I think the words are the same. This is thanks to the fusion with Zepairu.)

Thinking about that, he wrote, Name: Rei, Age: 15, Special Ability: fire magic, tamer, close combat, and handed the piece of paper back to the receptionist.

By the way, only nobles had a last name in the world of Elgin. It could also be awarded if some great achievement was accomplished. So of course, Rei, who just came to this world, only wrote Rei on the paper.

「Yes, thank you. Because there is some time before the guild card is ready, I'll give an explanation of the guild.」

With a light bow, the receptionist started to give a description of the guild.

Adventurers registered with the Adventurers Guild are part of a ranking system, the ranks go from H to A. Though there tentatively is a S rank, it is very difficult to enter and there are only 3 S rank adventurers in Elgin. By the way, one of the S ranks in the kingdom of Mireana is from the city of Gimuru.

H rank is the lowest rank and specializes in receiving requests that are needed in the city, you must have at least G rank before you can receive requests that are outside the city. Ranking up from H to G is possible on the first day if the guild's combat examiner assess that you can fight.

Requests can be taken from the request board and can be handed to the receptionists when completed. Because the compensation written on the request paper already accounts for taxes and housing fees in the city, you will receive the full amount specified on the request. Also, if you do not complete the request within the given number of days, you will be penalized and will have to pay the Adventurers Guild 30% of the request reward.

In addition, it is possible to receive requests one rank higher than your current rank, there is no lower limit. For instance, a G rank adventurer can receive F, G, and H rank requests.

You rank can be improved after completing a set number of requests. However, when going up from E to D or C to B, it is necessary to take an exam issued by the guild.

You will understand if you see this guide, G to E are novices, D to C are

experienced and B to A are masters.

When forming a party with more than one person, the average rank of the members becomes the party rank, this is clearly described on the guild card. Also, if you have formed a party, you can receive requests two ranks higher.

Registering as an adventurer is free but 5 gold coins are required to re-issue if you lose your guild card.

An adventurer may sell materials from monsters to customers out of his own judgement, in that case, if there is trouble, it does not concern the Adventurers Guild.

In addition, the Adventurer guild will purchase materials and weapon shops, armour shops and magic item shops in the city will sell things 1-2% cheaper. There are also advantages, the purchase assessment is quick and even if there is a large amount of the same material in the market, the payment will still be the same

Since the Adventurers Guild can contact other countries quickly by magic items, you can still rank up your guild card at a different Adventurers Guild branch.

If an adventurer has trouble with a request or other adventurers, the Adventurers Guild is not concerned.

「That's all.」

At the last part concerning disputes, the receptionist turned her gaze to Rei and the adventurers involved.

Tempted, Rei carefully turned his gaze, 4 figures were impatiently waiting for the guild registration to finish. In addition, the one person who tried to stop the 4 had declared his intention of having nothing to do with them and was drinking by himself further away.

As to what the 4 people were thinking, the only explanation that was needed was the receptionist's explanation that any trouble did not concern the guild. At present, Rei was still a civilian before he registered with the guild. Though the guild imposes a penalty if an adventurer uses violence on a civilian, there was no problem if it was a registered adventurer.

「Do you have any questions?」

At the words of the receptionist, Rei opened his mouth after a few seconds.

「For example, what happens if an adventurer of rank H or G defeats a monster from a rank C or B subjugation request?」

「Though it is unfortunate, even if the monster is defeated, the achievement will not be recognized as they have not received the request. However, there are no problems regarding the sale of materials from the monster.」

「Gyahaha. This idiotic brat just registered and wants to defeat rank C and B monsters. Let's put an end to this irresponsible nonsense.」

「Yeah, yeah, he must be sleep talking to say such nonsense in this place.」

When the group with the adventurers called Vargas and Zorito heard Rei's question, they tried to pick a fight again. However, Rei disregarded it and continued talking to the receptionist.

「I understand. There are no other questions in particular. How long before the guild card is ready?」

「Um.....yes, it's ready. Here's the card. Please confirm if the details are correct.」

In accordance with the receptionist's words, Rei verified the guild card. Guild registration location: Gimuru branch, Name: Rei, Rank: H, Age: 15. Finally, the combat skills listed were fire magic, tamer and close combat.

「There are no problems. By the way, can I ask one last question?」

He asked the receptionist while putting the guild card at his chest.

「Yes, what is it?」

At that question, a smile floated on to his face and turned into a grin. He asked louder on purpose so that the adventurers before could hear it.

「The group over there that are trying to pick a fight are ungraceful, ugly and noisy, what's the guild rank of those drunkards?」

「You!」

Maybe being drunk influenced them. The provocation Rei disguised as a question immediately made them furious

「.....That, the people over there are a rank D party called Claws of the Hawk.」  
「Hou~. Claws of the Hawk.....hey. With the way they looked, I thought their name must have been Goblin Drool for sure.」

As soon as Rei said that, there was a Bakii~ sound from where the Claws of the Hawk were sitting. The sound of something breaking was heard. When Rei turned his gaze to the sound, he saw that the man who was called Vargas had made the noise by swinging a large axe and breaking the table.

「For a kid who just registered you have courage. I'll come over in a moment. I'll teach you what your limitations are.」

「Okay. It's an opportunity anyway. All of Goblin Drool can be my opponent.」

「Aah?! The boy said it!」

「I'll teach him some manners!」

They started following Rei out of the guild while holding their weapons.

As they were about to leave the guild, Rei stopped and called out to the receptionist from before.

「Oh yeah, did you say you can get to rank G on the first day of registration if you have combat knowledge?」

「Eh? Ah, yes. That is right.」

「Then, please send a person with authority just outside the guild. I'm applying for rank G.」

「Y-yes. I understand.」

After leaving that message with the receptionist, Rei left the guild.

# Chapter 13

The front of the Adventurers Guild building. Currently, Rei was facing the 4 adventurers that had picked a fight with him. ....To be accurate it he was in a confrontation.

「Heh, it's too late now. Even if you have some skills, we won't forgive you even if you start crying.」

「I'll repay the insult that Claws of the Hawk received.」

Vargas held a battle axe and Zorito held a long sword in his hand while threatening Rei.

The two adventurers at the back held a bow and dagger respectively as they looked at Rei and grinned.

The 4 people didn't have any armour equipped and were wearing ordinary clothes.

The residents of the city gathered at a distance while curiously looking at Rei and the other 4.

At this time, Vargas and the other 3 were still drunk. They were curious voices from the people who had seen Rei and Set walking down the main street, but they didn't hear.

By the way, as for Set, he had noticed the sign of magic power when Rei came out of the Adventurers Guild. When he lifted his head, he saw Rei wink and closed his eyes before lying back down again.

Although Set was always pampered by Rei, he instinctively guessed the ability of the adventurers standing in front of Rei and judged that there was no problem.

In addition, because Vargas was drunk, he had the thought that Griffons would never be found in downtown and didn't even notice the existence of Set.

No, it would be funny if one expected a Griffon in the city.

「Well, good for nothing Goblin Drool. Why don't we make a bet?」

「.....A bet?」

Goblin Drool, he urged Rei to continue while blue veins appeared on his forehead at the disgraceful party name.

By the way, even the onlookers who heard the name were trying not to smile and laugh at it. Everyone shut up when the man with the bow glared at the surroundings.

「Ah. A bet. I heard a story a little while ago, miraculously, maybe because you used up a lifetimes worth of luck, you succeeded a request at last? So, during your celebration, you picked a fight with me who was just registering. Pride is pointless, that's the truth.....」

「Shut up! Stop talking freely like just before! Used a lifetimes amount of luck? Fortunately? Finally? You're looking down on us even though you're a novice that just registered!」

To Rei's provocation, Vargas yelled threateningly while waving his battle axe.

The sound of the air as he waved his axe showed that Vargas wasn't just all talk.

「Well, that's difficult to say. So, the contents of the bet. I'll fight the 4 of you from Goblins Drool one at a time. And if you win.....that's right.」

He took a bag of gold coins from his chest and removed the mithril knife and the Misty Ring from his right arm.

「7 gold coins, a knife made from superior mithril and a magic item with an item box function. I'll give these to you.」

It became noisy when Rei held out the items for Vargas to see. Not only that, there were some onlookers who had knowledge on magic items to some extent, they started to explain the value of the goods such as the Misty Ring that Rei had displayed.

「Don't joke! You're just a kid and you only registered with the guild today! Don't try to cheat us with fake things!」

Vargas said angrily. It wasn't for no reason. Aside from the gold coins, there was the mithril knife and item box. If you bought them, it would be worth

dozens of light gold coins, hundreds might be necessary. Mithril knife aside, item boxes were a very rare product.

Knowing this, Rei looked haughtily at the 4 people in front of him.

「Whether or not it is the real thing, feel free to judge if you beat me. Well, since I took out articles of this level, you guys have to put out something of equal value.」

「.....」

The 4 people were silent after Rei's words, this was natural. Afterall, Vargas was only a D rank adventurer. This was the first time he had seen a magic box, there was no way he had goods of equal value. However, even though he was made into a fool in front of the crowd, he could only glare at Rei with murderous eyes.

「What's wrong? Display the goods you bet. ....That said, it's probably impossible, as expected of Goblin Drool. Therefore, I'll allow you to bet everything you have right now. You should have something if you came to celebrate the achievement of a request?」

Hearing Rei's words, Vargas's eyes became more murderous.

In fact, Rei had misunderstood. To Rei, he thought that the 4 people wouldn't have taken their entire fortunes with them and would have left some savings at their inn. However, because of the possibility of it getting stolen, Vargas hadn't left any money at their inn and had brought all of it with them. However, his judgement wasn't that strange. As a frontier city, Gimuru had good security. But, this didn't mean there were no thieves.

「.....All right.」

「Vargas!?!」

Zorito and the remaining two men looked at Vargas with criticizing eyes when he nodded.

「You must prepare yourselves. We would make a fool of ourselves if we ran now, we would become laughingstock from tomorrow on! We only have to win. If we win, then the mithril knife and the item box will be ours.」

Whether the Vargas's words stimulated their greed, or maybe they



understood that they couldn't retreat from the situation, the 3 men stared daggers at Rei.

「If you have decided. Then take out your entire fortune.」

At Rei's words, the 4 men each took a bag of money from their chests and tossed to where the Misty Ring was.

Seeing that situation, Rei opened his mouth as a grin floated onto his face. As if to match the timing, a man walked out the guild door,

「Now then, we'll leave the items here in this place while we fight, it's no fun if someone steals them. ....Set!」

Though Vargas was suspicious about who Rei called out to, he understood at once. ....They were forcibly made to understand.

「Gurururururu~!」

While raising a cry, a Griffon over 2m in length that had been lying down instantly leaped up. As half the crowd started running away screaming. Set stood as if guarding the mithril knife and Misty Ring. Still, although half the crowd ran away, half stayed. The information that Rei was accompanied by a Griffon was whispered among the crowd. This was probably because the necklace that Set wore was evidence that he was a tamed or summoned monster.

.....Of course, the average person would normally be scared if they saw a Griffon in public.

「Hii, Hiii~!」

The person with the long sword, Zorito, fell backwards screaming. He wasn't in a state where he could stand up.

Starting with Vargas, all the others that saw Set were stunned.

To the 4 people in the other party, Rei opened his mouth to speak while smiling in ridicule.

「Don't worry, I don't need to borrow Set's claws for Goblin Drool. I'm the only opponent. Set, I'll fight against these 4 one by one now. The prize at your feet goes to the victor. Although these fellows becoming the winner is an impossible

possibility.」

「Guru～」

Set gave a small cry of approval at Rei's words. After confirming the state of the Death Scythe in his hands, Rei called out to Vargas.

「No need to worry, I'll knock you down safely. Hey, let's start at once. Who's first?」

『.....』

When Rei asked, the power that Vargas displayed previously seemed to have vanished, he was silent as his face turned blue. The colour of intoxication on his face a few minutes before had completely vanished.

「Haa, silence is it. ....Well, okay. Then we'll start from the guy that can't stand up, Zorito. Hey, here I come.」

Declaring that without asking, Rei stepped toward Zorito, who couldn't stand up, with the Death Scythe.

「Hii, Hiii~! Don't come.....don't cooommmmmeee!」

Feeling fear as Rei gradually approached, Zorito desperately grabbed his longsword that was lying on the ground and tried to cut Rei in a panic.

The attack had neither the skill or experience of a D rank adventurer, he just wanted to cut Rei somehow.

「Small fry.」

Naturally, such a blow couldn't hit Rei. In his eyes, the sword was swung recklessly. Moving his body little by little to evade all the attacks, he went into motion with the handle of the Death Scythe.

(Because even the body of the Water Bear was pierced easily, I shouldn't use the stab first.)

As expected, even if he said that they picked a fight, he didn't know what the guild penalty was for killing the other party. So, the aim was to make all of them faint. As Rei judged the length of the sword, he crouched down and dived towards Zorito's body. In return he gave a single blow and hammered the handle of the Death Scythe into Zorito's side at about 30% power.

With a baki~ sound, his hands felt the sense of Zorito's ribs breaking. Even though Zorito was 30cm taller than Rei, his body was still blown to the side.

With crushed ribs, Zorito was blown away and slammed into the wall of the Adventurers Guild.....

「Gafu~!」

Besha~, a sound like that was heard as he fell to the ground.

「That's one person. Next, the dagger user over there. Come.」

Not even looking at the unconscious Zorito, he beckoned to the man with the dagger, who was standing there frozen.

「.....」

However, the man couldn't keep up with the development of the situation and remained motionless.

「Haa. Is this really D rank?」

While letting out a sigh, with one strike of the handle, Rei blew him away like Zorito. The man with the bow and arrow was similarly blown away, each of them ended up with broken arms and ribs.

Glancing at the 3 people that had fainted ungracefully, he then turned towards Vargas, the only remaining person.....

「Tch!?!」

Looking at the face of Vargas before him, he waited for the moment battle axe swung down to strike with the Death Scythe.

Gyin~! While making a shrill sound, the Death Scythe repelled the battle axe.

Even though he held back so as to not kill, after exchanging blows between the handle of the Death Scythe and battle axe, Rei had an interesting look in his eyes.

Needless to say, the Death Scythe was materialized with Rei enormous magic power.....no, to be accurate, it was a magic item. When thinking about how the characteristics and performance would increase as it absorbed magic stones, in fact, it was a rarer item than the Misty Ring.

「The axe, is it a magic item?」

「Shut up! Shit, shit, daaamn iit!」

While scowling at Rei with hateful eyes, he swung the battle axe down, raised it back up and struck again.

The speed and technique were reasonably high, if someone saw it, they would say that he had a combat ability higher than a rank D adventurer. It was better than Zorito by a large extent, who had blindly swung his sword around with his strength.

In fact, because some time had passed since Rei showed his true power, Vargas had somewhat pulled himself together.

However, Vargas's desperate onslaught wasn't that hard to defend given Rei's physical ability and five senses. Inclining his and turning his body, the blow was evaded and repelled with the handle of the Death Scythe. Swinging it up after scraping the ground, the attack was diverted as it slid across the handle of the Death Scythe.

Such exchange of offense and defense continued for a few minutes. As expected, Vargas continued swinging his axe with full force, Rei forcibly swept it to the side as he took some distance.

「Haa, haa, haa.....」

Vargas took up a distance between Rei, he ascertained the state of his numb arm as he regained his breath

Weight reduction is one of the Death Scythe's characteristics. However only Rei felt the weight as a pair of disposable chopsticks, a person who received a blow would feel that they were hit by a 100kg mass of metal. With that in mind, Vargas was holding up well after exchanging several blows.

「Well, are your arms tired? Then allow me to continue.」

「Shut uppp!」

To the light provocation, Vargas attacked again even though he hadn't fully recovered his breath. This might be reason he was still stuck in D rank despite his combat ability.

The battle axe was swung down with a cry. As Rei saw it, he moved diagonally. In other words, he moved beside Vargas.....with the Shoes of Sleipnir, he kicked the air! Jumping towards Vargas's body in a triangle hop..... he held the arm that was holding the battle axe. Before it had swung down, he hit the elbow, side and knee joint consecutively with the handle of Death Scythe.

His elbow was broken and the battle axe fell to the ground, his side was hit and his ribs broken, with a broken knee joint, he fell to the ground,

The attacks were carried out in a blink of an eye, Vargas fainted due to the pain and toppled to the ground.

# Chapter 14

A 1 vs 4 fight. Aside from that, it was 4 D rank adventurers against a rookie that just registered at the Adventurers Guild today.

If you thought about it normally, the winner of the fight was obvious. However, the actual conclusion was the rookie shutting out the 4 D rank adventurers in a clean sweep.

Of course, there were various reasons why Rei won, half the watchers were convinced while the other half were unbelieving. In their vision, an adventurers rank was absolute.

Some people understood, for Rei to be accompanied by a rank A monster Griffon, he must have some ability. As for the unbelieving people, he was only a 165cm tall person who was neither big or muscular.

While being watched by the onlookers, Rei called to Set.

「Set.」

「Gururu~!」

With a joyful cry, he left the spot and passed the items he was protecting to Rei as the prize for the fight..

Firstly, he re-quipped the Misty Ring on his right arm, then he returned the mirthril knife to his waist. Putting his money bag back to his chest, he took the bag of gold that Vargas had bet and stored it into the Misty Ring.

(I will invite unnecessary people if I count the money in front of so many people, I'll confirm how much there is when I get to the inn later.)

A person in the crowd clicked their tongue. When Rei heard it, he saw the person who had clicked their tongue and recalled who he was..

「Well, is that okay?」

The voice that called out was from the man that came out of the guild and indicated the fight area. He had watched and spoke out at a suitable time, Rei shook his head at his words.

「No, give me a little bit longer.」

He replied shortly to the man. Sequentially, he took the long sword, two daggers, a bow, arrows and the battle axe that was lying on the ground and stored them into the Misty Ring.

「.....I thought it wasn't necessary to take their weapons.」

The man that was watching called out reprovngly, but Rei shook his head in silence.

「In the first place these people picked a fight and the contents of the bet was all their property. They should be grateful and thank me for not stripping their clothes.」

There were also other reasons why he didn't want to strip the men's clothes.

「.....Well, okay. The guild policy is not to interfere between adventurer conflicts. Though I don't think I need to confirm it again, the rules mean that I have to check. Are you Rei?」

「Ah.」

「You're hoping for a rank up from H to G?」

「That's right. If you have combat knowledge, I heard you can rank up from H to G on the first day?」

「Certainly.」

「So, I think I was able to show my combat ability from the battle before.....is the rank up possible?」

「There are no complaints. A rookie who just registered with the guild knocking down a D rank adventurer party alone.....although I saw it with my own eyes it's unbelievable. However, since I saw it, I'll believe it.」

Interested in the words of the man, who was smiling wryly, Rei observed him. He was in his late thirties to forties, from the scar that could be seen on his cheek, he was probably a former adventurer. His height was about the same as Vargas, 190cm, and seemed to have a muscular body.

Urged by the man to re-enter the guild, Rei faced the guild, disregarding the curious gazes of the spectators.

By the way, Set returned to the place he was at before and lay down again

after he saw Rei go back into the guild.

Also, the residents of Gimuru were of course happy that even though the spectators were curious, none of them were reckless enough to meddle with Set.

「We've already entered the guild, but what about those guys lying outside?」

「As I said earlier, it has been ruled that the guild will not intervene in problems between adventurers. So, your guild card.」

Following the man's words, the man walked further inside after Rei gave his guild card. As the man walked away, Rei looked around the guild. The people who had saw the commotion earlier wore expressions of astonishment and assent as they looked at Rei.

Among the people who were looking, one man approached Rei.

Rei remembered the man. At the beginning, he was one of the people drinking with Vargas, he had left to drink by himself when Vargas picked a fight with the rookie Rei.

「That was surprising, after all, what to say.....well, it feels like everything fell into place.」

「.....You are?」

「Runo. Though I think you know, I'm a person who formed a temporary party with the fools who picked a fight with you.」

「.....Temporary?」

「Yes. Those guys said that the request this time was tough. That's the reason I temporarily joined their party as an assistant. I wonder what they were thinking, getting involved with a monster like you. With that party, I'll receive damage if I stayed with them.」

Monster. Hearing that word, Rei's cheeks twitched.

It didn't hurt his feeling that he was called a monster. In the first place, Rei thought that about half his body was like a monster. However, that was true because Rei knew the performance of his body. The existence of Set probably wasn't even noticed by those inside the guild.

「Monster, eh. Why would you call me that? It can't be.....by appearance?」



He watched Runo closely so as to not miss any suspicious movements.

However, Runo quickly shook his head, showing that he had no hostility.

「Oi oi, don't look at me like that. When I said that, I was honest.」

「.....So?」

Prompted by Rei, Runo continued with cold sweat.

「To begin with, the reason why I partnered up with Vargas was because I have an extraordinary type of eyes called magic eyes.」

「Magic eyes?」

「Ah. ....Even I say that, its not a powerful magic eye where I can enchant or petrify things by looking at them. My magic eyes only have one ability. I can see magic power.」

「Seeing magic power.....eh.」

「Ah. As for working with Vargas this time, there is a dungeon a few days from here, one of the levels has magic traps. For the purposes of clearing it, my eye was necessary. So, when I looked at you with my magic eyes.....you magic power has a quantity and concentration that honestly can't be explained in any words other than monster.」

「.....I see. You've convinced me for now.」

As he nodded, Rei's interest turned towards the dungeon.

Dungeon. For some reason, when magic power gathers, an existence can form with the materialization of a nucleus. The monster that gains power due to the nucleus becomes the boss monster of the dungeon, the scale of the dungeon gradually increases unless the boss monster is defeated.

Once the boss monster has been defeated at least once, the scale of the dungeon will become fixed.

Furthermore, because of the dungeon's nature to accumulate magic power, common beasts entering and turning into monsters was a common story. In addition, whenever the number of monsters in the dungeon dropped below a certain number, the nucleus would either transfer monsters to it or create new monsters.

Though the dungeon disappears if the nucleus is destroyed, the material and

monsters that the dungeon created will not disappear, adventurers who aim to get money gather the drops. There will be a profit exceeding the disadvantages as merchants will come to purchase the materials.

(Dungeon.....saying that there are a lot of monsters, going there sooner or later with Set is not a bad idea. Getting some decent skills is also good. The problem is with the Death Scythe and fire magic, I can only afford to do combat maneuvers with Set if there is enough space.)

As Rei thought this in his head, the man who took his guild card came back.

「What, you seem to get along with Runo even though he formed a temporary party with Vargas and that rowdy bunch.」

「Gran, don't say unnecessary things. Because I was friends with Vargas I had a lot of trouble clearing the misunderstanding.」

「Runo is the same as usual. Rei, I'll tentatively introduce Runo as an able adventurer. Basically, he is a fighter, can use some attack magic, can use some recovery magic and is a convenient fellow who also has some thievery skills.」

The man, Gran, explained Runo's capabilities as he passed the guild card. While listening to him talk, Rei muttered.

「In other words, Jack of all trades, master of none.」

「.....No, well, it's not entirely true. I wonder if it was a little bit unclear.」

「There's no doubt this guy is convenient to have in a party. Hey, why don't you form a party with Runo?」

Gran recommend that Rei should form a party with Runo.

Actually, Gran had expectations for the new guy Rei.....his abilities were outstanding – normally, a rookie wouldn't be able to take 4 D rank adventurers in a one sided fight – anyway, he had high expectations for Rei's talent. However, he seemed to have problems with interpersonal relationships as he immediately got into trouble with a D rank adventurer party right after registering. Therefore, although Rei's abilities were powerful, he hoped that Runo would be able to help improve his interpersonal relations if they were in the same party.

「Sorry. I intend to work solo for now. I have a companion already.」

Rei refused frankly. In the first place, the material of a monster that sells the most is the magic stone. However, Rei's purpose was to let the magic stones be absorbed by Set and the Death Scythe, also, there was definitely going to be disagreements when in a party.

「.....Well, certainly it would be leisurely if you have a Griffon for a companion.」

「Griffon?」

Because Runo was in the guild the entire time, naturally, he never heard any news about Set.

Gran noticed that and his mouth turned into a grin.

「I see, you don't know since you were drinking alone when Vargas went out. Rei over there tamed a Griffon.」

「.....Really?」

Runo asked disbelievingly, Rei answered with a nod as he placed the guild card into the Misty Ring.

TLN: There's three people talking to each other now so I'll put a note here for who's talking to who.

「Now then. The the rank improvement has been updated, I must get going soon. You should find him an inn.」 (Runo to Gran)

「I see. It's a pity.....by the way, have you decided on an inn?」(Gran to Runo then Gran to Rei)

「Ah. I was told by a guard called Ranga to go to the Dusk Wheat Pavilion. I mean, I heard that it was the only inn that has the facilities to take care of Set.」 (Rei to Gran)

Gran nodded at Rei's explanation. Gran knew that the Dusk Wheat Pavilion was the only inn that could take care of a Griffon. If he hadn't decided on an inn, he was going to introduce that place.

「I see. You seem to already know. After going out of the guild go straight to the right until you see a sign saying Dusk Wheat. You'll know immediately when you see a sunset and wheat symbol.」

「Ah, thank you.」

Thanking Gran, Rei left the guild. While seeing Rei's back as he left, Gran had a premonition that the future would become becoming noisy in various ways.

「Guru～」

When Rei approached, Set opened his eyes and gave a happy cry.

「I kept you waiting. Since the only accommodation seems to be the Dusk Wheat Pavilion, lets get going quickly.」

Rei talked while stroking the smooth hair on Set's back.....

「Gururu～」

Having never been separated from Rei since he was born, Set was quite dependent and rubbed his head against Rei.

After caring for Set for about 10 minutes, they left the guild.

# Chapter 15

「Here it is.」

Rei muttered as he stopped on the road with Set. Though people passing by avoided Rei and Set, they ignored them and looked up at the signboard.

Drawn on the signboard was a sun setting on the horizon, a sheaf of wheat was dyed red by the evening sun. 『Dusk Wheat』 It could be said that the name of the inn was expressed on the signboard.

The size of the inn was about the same as the other inns Rei saw on the way from the guild. Traditionally, the first floor has a bar and dinning room, the second and third floors were inn rooms. The difference was the size of the stables that was built at the back of the inn. It was the same size as other inns combined. Originally, large caravans with mercenaries or visiting nobles with attendants would frequently stay at the Dusk Wheat. By the way, in the previous example, it was common for a noble to spend a few White Gold coins to stay a night at the inn.

The door made a gyi~ sound as he opened it. Because it was not past the afternoon, there weren't many people. A few people were dinning in the bar on the first floor.

「Welcome. Are you here for a meal? Or are you staying for the night?」

A stout middle-aged woman called out to Rei when she saw him enter.

「I would like a room. Also, I would like to leave a monster I tamed in the stables.」

The woman nodded with a pleased smile when she heard Rei's words.

「Yes, thank you very much. The inn charges payment in advance, it's 3 silver coins a night with morning and evening meals. However, in the case of staying for 10 days it's 2 gold coins and 7 silver coins. With that, what is the tamed monster?」

「It's a Griffon.」

「.....I see.」

Although she stopped moving for an instant after hearing Griffon, she immediately pulled herself together, showing more guts than the men in the neighbourhood, and returned her eyes to Rei,

She had interacted with adventurers and mercenaries on a daily basis.

「A Griffon is big.....including the fees for feed and space in the stables it is 2 silver coins a night. For 10 days it's 1 gold and 8 silver coins.」

「Ah, thanks.」

He nodded and took out 5 gold coins from the bag in his chest without any problems.

In the first place, he heard that this was the only inn that he and Set could stay in, since there wasn't a choice, he didn't mind it.

「Thank you, here are 5 silver coins change. Someone from the inn will guide you to the stables immediately, can you take the Griffon with you?」

「Okay. The first floor seems to be a bar, but can you eat here as well?」

「Yes. However, it costs extra to the morning and evening meals.」

Listening to the woman's words, he gave one of the silver coins he received.

「Please prepare lunch, I would like to have it after going to the stables and dropping off my luggage. Some for the Griffon as well.」

「I understand. ....It's a bit late to say it but I'm Lana, the proprietress of the Dusk Wheat.」

「I see, I'll be in your care for a while. I'm Rei. The Griffon in the stable is called Set.」

「Yes, nice to meet you. ....Ah, he seems to have come. That kid will guide you to the stables.」

A young man who looked about 20 was called by Lana. It could be Lana's son, their features were very similar.

「This kid called Dram is my son. You can talk with this kid about the monster since he's in charge of the stables. Dram.」

Prompted by Lana, Dram bowed his head. Similar to his mother, he wore a honest smile on his face.

「Nice to meet you, I'm Dram. Going to the point, I'll guide you to the stables at once.」

「Ah. The monster is in the stable.」

「Yes, then please come with me first. We must be cautious around monsters.」

Nodding to Dram's words, the two people headed to the stables. By the way, after seeing Dram off, Lana headed to the kitchen to ask them to prepare the meal that was asked for.

「Uwaa~.....it's a splendid Griffon.」

Was the first thing Dram said when he saw Set. Rei heard it and looked at Dram with a surprised face.

Since coming to the city of Gimuru, Dram was the first to raise his voice with pure admiration on his face, others who saw Set were all frightened with fear on their faces.

「Guest, um, is it safe to stroke it?」

「Guru~」

On the contrary, he even asked if he could touch it. In this situation, Set, and not just Rei, gave a favourable response, giving a happy cry.

Rei nodded while having a strange smile on his face.

「Ah. It seems like Set likes you.」

「In that case, pardon me.....」

He stretched out his hand to stroke the smooth silky hair that had grown on Set's back.

「It's great.....this is the first time I've touched a Griffon, it has a smooth feel.」

Dram was impressed as he said that, of course, the smooth touch of the Griffon was specific to Set, normal Griffons had coarser feel.

「Well, could you guide him to a satisfactory place in the stables?」

「Ah, yes! I'm sorry. I'll guide you there immediately.」

Following Dram's guidance, they went through a side road close to the entrance of the inn, soon, the stables came into view.

As expected, it was suitable to accommodate large caravans and mercenary parties, it was almost the same size as the first floor of the Dusk Wheat.

「Here, please.」

Although there was a peculiar smell of animals and monsters as they entered the stables, according to Dram's words, it was kept clean. In addition, the figures of the horses of customers staying at the Dusk Wheat could be seen.

However, most of the horses wouldn't calm down and looked around restlessly when they saw the appearance of Set, moving their bodies little by little.

The difference in status may have been felt instinctively.

「Ah, I'm sorry. You can see the state of some of the other customer's horses, I'll let this child rest in a separated place.」

As Dram apologized, he took Set to the place furthest from the horses.

「So then, I wonder if it is okay for Set to stay here.」

「Guru~」

When Dram called his name, Set gave a cry of approval.

「.....Rei, does Set.....understand people's words?」

Seeing Dram notice Set nod, Rei gave a wry smile.

「Because it's an A rank monster, it can understand the words of most people.」

At most, a usual A rank monster can only understand human words to a certain degree and it is not possible to understand perfectly like Set, however, Dram didn't seem to know and gave an impressed nod.

While watching the situation, Rei called out to Set, who was behind Dram.

「Dram, I'll leave Set's care to you. Please give him some food after settling him, he hasn't eaten anything since morning. Money has been passed to the proprietress.」

「Ah, yes. I understand.」

「Then, Set. behave yourself here.」



「Guru～」

After Rei scratched his head and left, Set gave a lonely cry.

「Guest, your meal is ready.」

When he re entered the inn, Lana's voice called out from a seat at the bar.

「As expected, because it was prepared before dinner, it's made with what was on hand.....」

Saying so, there was a meat stew and plenty of bread. There was also, cheese, wine and a vegetable salad.

Losing to the sound of his stomach, he took a bite of the meat stew. As soon as he savoured it, the flavour of meat spread through his mouth.

「Delicious.」

「Thank you very much.」

The words involuntarily cam from his mouth, Lana bowed her head while smiling.

「Because the price of our inn is higher than others, we have put an emphasis on the food.」

Expensive, Rei reacted when he heard that word.

(3 silver per night. In other words, breakfast and dinner for 3,000 yen. Though I though it was cheap.....well, I guess it's natural that price differences exist between Japan and a fantasy world's frontier city.)

「By the way, what is the meat in this stew?」

Rei tried asking out of curiosity as it had a similar taste to the wild boar meat that he had eaten in Japan when a hunter in the neighbourhood shared some.

However, Lana returned the question with a strange look.

「What meat.....it's the meat of a Fang Boar? Haven't you eaten it? It's a common meat around here.」

Rei stopped moving the spoon to his mouth for an instant, but then immediately continued talking without changing his face.

「No, my master told me to train and forcibly teleported me here using space magic. I just became an adventurer today, I don't know anything about the area.」

「Ah, he was a magician. That's very dreadful. Do your best to eat our cooking.」

Tricking Lana, he searched Zepairu's knowledge.

(Information on a Fang Boar.....doesn't exist. It's become completely useless. In that case, the first thing tomorrow is gathering information at a guild or library somewhere.)

While thinking so, he ate the bread and vegetable salad, tasted the cheese and drank the wine last.

By the way, although it was the body of a 15 year old, he finished the meal without getting drunk, it seems Zepairu's organization had given it some alcohol tolerance.

「Phew.....lots of things happened today.」

A corner room on the second floor. Rei's room was there. It can be said that the price was high for a frontier town, however, there were no complaints as it was a neat room with a a bed a futon. Particularly, the futon had been sun dried as he could smell the air. The Dragon Robe was taken off and he muttered to himself as he lay on the bed.

「Come to think of it, when I find more information about the world tomorrow, I should also look at the calendar. Zepairu's knowledge is confusing.」

Zepairu's knowledge in Rei, could only be used as a reference in this world, especially about common sense. No, he judged that he should search the contents as his preconception may be different from the present common sense.

「Of course, magic.....no, I wonder what use there is for magic.」

As he muttered, the Misty Ring on his right arm suddenly came into view. When he saw it, he remembered the money and items that he had taken from Vargas a few hours ago.

Getting up from his prone state, he took out 4 money bags from the list in his mind and spread the contents on the bed. Counting the money, there were 4 White gold coins, 8 gold coins, 15 silver coins and 9 copper coins.

「Including what they would have in their room, this amount of money.」

Rei muttered, however, he didn't know that this was literally the total assets Vargas had.

「Dungeon searching seems to be quite lucrative.....to some extent.」

There were various monsters and the magic stones and materials could be taken from them. If there are a lot of monsters, Rei could earn a lot of money.....in addition, it was an attractive place for adventurers. However, you couldn't call it low risk high return, a certain amount of strength was required. What was most painful for Rei was that the dungeon was narrow. Though there was no combat problems for normal adventurers, for the long Death Scythe and the 2m large Set, it would be difficult.

「We will go to the dungeon, after improving our combat power.」

Rei concluded that for the time being, put the money back into the Misty Ring and looked at the weapons he took from Vargas.

One long sword. Two daggers, a quiver and a bow. And a battle axe, which was the main magic item.

By the way, the long sword was called iron sword, both daggers were called iron daggers, the bow was just a bow. The name of the battle axe was Power Axe.

Knowing the name was an effect of the Misty Ring. The name of the weapon was neatly displayed in the list in his mind. As a result, Rei understood that he could put in unknown items into the Misty Ring to see the name.

Looking at them, he returned them to the Misty Ring while letting out a sigh.

The long sword and battle axe could be used if the Death Scythe got in the way. The high performance mithril knife could be used as a dagger. Though he could barely use it, there was a bow. However, in that case, he could attack an approaching enemy at a long distance with the bow and swap to the Death

Scythe when it got close.

「Well, I can leave the long sword for emergencies. The daggers can probably be thrown. As for the remaining bow, arrows and battle axe.....well, there's no need to decide so soon.」

In the first place, he had a considerable buffer in his pockets because of the money he took from Vargas, Rei judged it was necessary and bought some hot water for 3 copper coins, he then slept until supper after cleaning his body. By the way, dinner was a steak of a monster called Kelpie and a stew made from it's offal.

# Chapter 16

It was the day after Rei arrived at the city of Gimuru. After eating and finishing the preparations for going out, Rei went to the stables.

「Gururu~!」

As Set saw Rei enter the stables, he gave a joyful cry.

「Did you sleep well last night?」

「Guru~」

Full of energy, Set seemed to say as he stretched. A smile floated on to his face as Rei scratched his head.

「I see. So then, what do you want to do today? Because there seems to be a library, I want to look around there.....so do you want to stay here or do you want to come to the library with me? Well, if you come to the library with me, you'll probably have to wait outside like at the Adventurers Guild yesterday, they won't let you in.」

To Rei's words, Set came over and rubbed his head. He appealed with whole body to be brought along.

「I see.」

Smiling at Set's appearance, Rei took him out of the stables.

Because Dram told Rei during breakfast that he could take Set out of the stables, there was nothing to worry about taking Set into the main street.

The moment Set appeared on the street, in the same way as yesterday, people walking nearby took a few steps back in astonishment. However, as information from yesterday about Rei and Set had circulated to some extent, less people than Rei expected screamed and ran away. In other words, some people ran away without even seeing the necklace on Set that showed that he was a tamed or summoned monster.

Also, the name of the necklace was『Necklace of Subservient Monster』. He was told by Dram during breakfast.

「Guru～」

Seeing the reactions in the surroundings, Set gave a cry. Rei patted Set lightly and with Set following, walked in the direction of the library he had heard from the landlady during breakfast.

Walking along the main street, they passed the front of the Adventurers Guild. Seeing an appetizing kebab store, Rei bought some to eat with Set. .... However, while Rei wasn't a big eater, because of Set, he bought 30 kebabs for several silver coins.

But, because Rei bought such a large quantity, he was judged to be a good customer. Maybe reassured by the Necklace of Subservient Monster, many people called out to him. As for the merchants, seeing the monster, they recognized that the person buying could be a customer.

As they walked along the road while eating, the building that the landlady told him about came into view. The library. However, even if it was a library, he was told that the number of books wasn't great because Gimuru was a frontier city. However, it was the only place with the knowledge that Rei needed.

「Set, wait here for me.」

「Guru～」

The same as yesterday at the Adventurers Guild, he parted from Set at the place where carriages and tamed or beasts waited and entered the library.

「Welcome. Have you come to use the library?」

As he entered the building, a voice immediately called out from the reception, Rei approached while nodding.

「Ah. Please tell me how to use it.」

The receptionist, who looked like she was in her twenties, continued while barely changing her expression.

「Using the library is 5 silver coins per day. However, as the guarantee money for damaged books is included in this, if the returned books are not damaged or dirtied, 3 silver coins will be refunded. In addition, please be warned that an additional charge from the 3 silver coins may have to be paid if the books are

damaged or dirtied. If you leave without paying, a request will be put to the Adventurers Guild and the money owed given as a reward. If it is necessary to copy something, we sell 10 sheets of paper and a pen for 3 copper coins.」

Rei frowned his eyebrows slightly when he was told that 5 silver coins were necessary as a deposit, however, he paid the fee without complaining.

Back in his life on Earth, Rei was able to use libraries free of charge, in this world, books are expensive. It wasn't uncommon to buy rare books for platinum and Light gold coins.

「Yes, that's enough. Please get the librarian's signature on this document when you leave the library. You should have no problems if you don't damage the books. The 3 silver coins deposit can be refunded using this document. So then, take your time.」

Passing a document in exchange for the silver coins, the receptionist gave a bow. Holding the document, he went to where the books were placed while wryly smiling at the differences with library he knew.

「.....I see.」

Were the words that leaked from Rei's mouth as he looked inside the library.

According to Rei's senses, it was the size of several school libraries, 2m long bookshelves were lined up at regular intervals. Various books, big and small, were displayed, desks and chairs for up to four people were lined up near where the librarian's desk was.

As Rei looked around, he gave up the idea of looking for a book on his own and went to the counter. He called out to the librarian, who was a middle-aged man in his forties.

「Sorry, are you available now?」

「Yes, what would you like?」

「I'm looking for information about a man named Zepairu, is there a book related to him?」

「Zepairu, is it? Give me a minute. I've certainly read that somewhere before.....」

After short time, the man opened his mouth with a smile as he remembered

something.

「Ah, I think its the name of a Majin I heard somewhere.」

「.....Majin? What's with the nasty name?」

Rei instinctively asked when he heard the unexpected word. The librarian man replied with a strange look.

「Hm, is it a different person? However, that's the only famous person with the name Zepairu.」

「.....Is there a book written about the Majin?」

「Because it's like a myth or fairy tale, it should be on the shelf on the right, straight at the end of the corridor.」

「Is that so. Thank you very much.」

After thanking the librarian, he went to the bookshelf, took out several possibly related books and moved them to the desk.

「Now then, I wonder what I'll find.」

It was in his expectations that the information had been skewed, however, since he fused with Zepairu, he knew the knowledge himself. Determining so, he opened a book and read the page.

Zepairu. A person who is said to have existed thousands of years ago and led a group of magicians. That alone isn't too special, however, the magicians he led at the time were all eminent people in the world, it should also be noted that he was the magician who taught them.

It was assumed that the combat power of the group of magicians was enough to instantly destroy a country, because of that, he was treated as a dangerous person by many countries at the time. There was a country that tried to force them to become part of the military, but the country that tried to do that disappeared from world in a single day. Mighty magicians with might magic. That is how they came to be known as Majin.

「.....」

This, Rei unintentionally stopped his words as he held his head. Although he thought that there was a time difference between his knowledge and reality, he still didn't think it would be thousands of years. According to Zepairu, only



several hundred years had passed. In actuality, it was thousands of years. Rei had a headache, the difference was nearly 10 times.

That said, because he has already come to this world, he can't do anything. Convincing himself to continue to live in this world, he returned the books to the bookshelf without reading any more about Zepairu.

Then, to stabilize his mind, he read some books about the world and some that would help adventurers.

After reading, he understood. There were 24 hours in a day and 30 days in a month. A year had 12 months, there were hardly any differences with Earth. The days of the week were Ji, Mizu, Hi, Kaze, Hikari, Yami and Mu. TLN: The days are actually the characters for earth, water, fire, wind, light, dark and nothing, but using those as days in English feels a bit weird so I've used the romanizations.

However, because clocks were a type of magic item, ownership of one was limited to wealthy merchants and nobles. Then how did other people keep the time? A bell would sound in town every 3 hours. 6 am, 9 am, 12 noon, 3 pm, 6 pm, 9 pm, most people would roughly know the time as the bell sounded 6 times a day.

Elsewhere, he took and read a book about the necessities of an adventurer, but what attracted Rei's interest the most was the book titled『Beginners Guide to Dismantling Monsters』.

Though he had removed the fur of the Water Bear reasonably well, it was still sold cheaply because he was careless with the process. Since he was living as an adventurer from now on, the method to dismantling monsters was indispensable. That said, because Rei judged that it would take too much time to copy it, he spoke to the librarian.

「Sorry, are you available?」

「Yes, what would you like?」

「Can this book be bought?」

Rei asked as he held the book Beginners Guide to Dismantling Monsters. However, the librarian had an apologetic face as he shook his head.

「I'm very sorry. This book cannot be bought or sold. It won't stop if it starts. ....Ah, however.」

He looked at the book that Rei presented while apologizing, he then looked up as if he noticed something.

「But?」

「That, I think there was an identical book at the city bookstore. I saw it about 2 weeks ago, I don't know if it is still there as there was only one copy.」

「No, thank for the information. Can you tell me the location of the bookstore?」

「Yes.」

He heard the location from the nodding librarian and hesitated on what to do next.

2 silver coins, because of the moderate amount of money he paid, he wanted to read some more books about the world. However, he also wanted to buy the book *Beginners Guide to Dismantling Monsters* that the librarian saw in the bookstore. Though Rei hesitated for a while, because books in the library don't disappear, he decided to come again later. Getting the signature on the document, he handed it to the receptionist, received the security deposit back and left the library.

Meeting with Set, who was waiting outside the library, he went to the bookstore and bought the book for the considerable sum of 1 gold coin. After buying a change of clothes and some other items, he returned to the Dusk Wheat.

# Chapter 17

The next day, he went to the library. A little bit after the first bell rang, the figure of Rei could be seen in the Adventurers Guild. Of course, Set waited at the area for carriages outside the guild.

「It's quite different from the day before yesterday.」

The day before yesterday, there were only several requests pasted on the Adventurers Guild board and few people, the number of people drinking in the bar now was much greater.

But although it was busy.....it wasn't too crowded. A considerable number of people were standing in front of the board, eagerly receiving quests for their rank.

It was an unexpected development to Rei, that the Adventurers Guild was busiest in the morning. However, it's natural if you think about it, quests received in the morning are carried out during the day, they are returned in the evening and the reward received. This is because the city is the best place to live.

Though there are people who specialize in receiving night quests, they are a minority.

「Hey, the young one wearing the robe. Are you the guy that fought Vargas by himself?」

「.....What? I heard there wasn't much of a size difference between him and Vargas?」

「But the story I heard was a delicate female adventurer.....」

Taking no notice of the adventurers who were looking at Rei's unfamiliar figure, he looked for F and G rank quests that had been fixed to the board.

That said, Rei had little expectations for rank G and F quests. After all, there's not much point in using the Magic Beast Art to absorb the magic stones of weak monsters. Therefore, he wanted to accept a subjugation quest for a suitable monster, he looked for a monster that Set and Death Scythe could absorb a skill

from.....that was Rei's aim.

「But, still.....well, these are mostly quests for beginners.」

The contents of the requests entered Rei's eyes, G rank quest, deliver the meat of a Fang Boar and Horned Rabbit, collect medicinal herbs to make potions. Gathering materials for anesthetics in case of serious injuries. The rest were all similar.

Seeing such requests, he let out a sigh. Even though there was a quest close to what he wanted, the target of the subjugation request was too weak. With that said, Fang Boars and Horned Rabbits were like the wolves he fought in the forest and were not monsters. The G rank requests were basically all of this form. Originally, the quests were mainly for training people who had ranked up from H to G and had only done quests in the city.

Next, he moved to the F rank board to look at the requests.

Goblin subjugation, delivery of slime magic stones, Poison Toad subjugation, most of the quests were monster subjugation quests for weak monsters or delivery quests.

「Well, at least they've got some over here. Talking about fantasies, Goblins are a must.」

Muttering quietly, he read the Goblin subjugation request.

The Goblin subjugation quest was a regularly requested quest, the proof of subjugation are the right ears of the Goblins. The minimum subjugation number is 5. The written exchange rate is 3 copper coins for 1 ear.

Even if it was a quest for low rank adventurers, the reward was cheap. Rei unintentionally knit his eyebrows, 5 ears were 15 copper coins, in other words, 1 silver and 5 copper coins. Staying at the Dusk Wheat cost Rei 3 silver a night, this was because it was a high quality inn in the city of Gimuru. As for beginners who just registered with the guild, they usually stay in cheap inns that cost 5 coppers a night, because of this, it was common for people to form parties with others in similar situations.

With his talent, Rei was an existence far apart from the normal adventurer.

He tore off the paper for the Goblin subjugation request and brought to the receptionist with the ponytail that had talked with him when he entered the guild for the first time.

Some of the surrounding adventurers watched with surprised expressions. Because he could fight 4 D rank adventurers by himself, it was unexpected that he would take the quest to subjugate Goblins, one of the weakest monsters. If there are Goblins then it definitely is a fantasy, no one would have expected that it was picked for simplistic reasons.

It's highly probable that Set and the Death Scythe would not grow by absorbing the magic stones of F and G rank monsters even if they fought them. However, his decision wasn't a bad one.

### 『Goblin』

A race of demons with the stature of a human child. They have green skin, an angular forehead and short fingers. Weak as an individual, they can easily be defeated by a human accustomed to fights. However, they have the habit of gathering together and like to act in groups. In addition, while they have a primitive intelligence, they will still arm themselves with weapons they pick up or steal.

While passing the quest paper to the receptionist, he pulled information about Goblins from Zepairu's knowledge.

「The Goblin subjugation quest. Though there shouldn't be a problem with your strength, please be careful not to let your guard down.」

「Ah, so the Goblin's location.....」

「Well about that, they seem to appear frequently near the forest along the highway to the city of Gimuru. Recently, they have attacked merchants and travelers to Gimuru in groups.」

「Do the Goblins there have any intelligence?」

「No, usually not. Nevertheless, there is a possibility that a rare species has been born.」

Rare species are individuals who were born with some kind of mutation. In the case of rare species, they boast a higher intelligence than the normal monster and are one rank higher than the monster information published by

the guild. In other words, because the Goblin's rank is F, a rare species Goblin would be the equivalent of a rank E monster.

Having accepted the quest accepted by the receptionist, he exited out of the guild.

Though the knowledge of Zepairu hadn't been used recently, the standard fantasy Goblin, which had existed for thousands of years, could be found in Zepairu's knowledge without any problems as they were around when he was alive..

「Guru～」

As Set found Rei walking out the guild, he stood up while giving a happy cry.

People walking past gasped and quickly moved away when they saw Set get up. Ignoring it, Set went up to Rei and rubbed his head against him.

「Gururu～」

「Sorry about this. We'll go at once.」

「Gururu～!」

Set gave a cry to Rei's words. Together with Set, they walked along the main street to the gate.

「Hey, it's been a few days since. Your activities have already been heard here.」

Ranga, who was at the side of the gate, called out as soon as he saw Rei and Set.

Activities, Rei thought about the incident with Vargas and involuntarily smiled as he took his adventurer card from the Misty Ring to show Ranga.

「I'll say this for now, I only did that because I got involved with a fool.」

「.....Not just the money they had, I heard you also took their weapons?」

「Ah. That's because we bet all our property. That was natural.」

He removed the Necklace of Subservient Monster from Set's neck and passed it to Ranga.

「I feel sorry for them.....each of the Claws of the Hawk went through here earlier before with weapons several ranks below them.」

Listening to the words Ranga said as he shook his head, Rei felt surprised.

(That party, going out of the city of Gimuru as soon as they could.....they have more guts than I expected)

「No problems. So then, be careful.....well, worrying might be unnecessary since you have a Griffon.」

「Ah maybe. So, Set. You can first look from the sky.」

「Guru~」

Sitting on Set's back, he took a run up of several meters while flapping his big wings. They flew into the sky, disregarding the shocked look of Ranga

「Gurururururu~!」

A bit after leaving the city of Gimuru, Set gave a loud cry, as if to release his stress. Rei stroked his back while thinking.

(If you think about it, it hasn't been long since Set was born. Even if his birth was special through the Magic Beast Art, his stress may have piled up by being confined to the stables a few days after birth.)

Though Rei brought him out of the stables when he went out, the narrow passages, inability to fly in the city and the fearful looks people gave him must have stressed him a lot.

Thinking about this, when this was done, Rei decided to take as many quests for outside the city as possible, starting tomorrow.

Rei's original purpose was to foster Set and the Death Scythe, so being an adventurer wasn't a necessity. However, information could always be gathered in the guild and high rank requests for monster subjugation given. For Rei, quests gave useful information. However, even if high rank monster subjugation request appeared, as a G rank he couldn't receive it. Thinking about it, his current objective was to raise his rank by doing quests.

While thinking about such things, the forest along the highway that the receptionist had told him about came into view. Although it would take a normal adventurer several hours to come to this forest, it took Rei riding on Set only 10 minutes after leaving Gimuru. However, with a Griffon.....no, with Set, his mobility was clear.

「Set, do you see any monsters?」

「Guru~」

Set shook his head left and right while flying through the sky. From Rei's eyes, it was a wide forest and the state inside the forest was blocked by the trees.

「Though it is possible to launch a quick surprise attack from the sky.....I guess there's no other way. Set, land on the ground.」

「Gururu~!」

Giving a short cry in response to Rei, he gently adjusted his wings and gracefully landed on the ground in a way that expressed the elegance of his lion like lower half.

There seemed to have been some merchants and travelers near the landing point though, Rei saw them sprinting towards Gimuru as he got off Set.

(.....Perhaps they would be told about the situation of the Griffon by Ranga when they reached the gate.)

As he smiled wryly, thinking about Ranga's increased workload, his focus immediately changed to searching the surroundings.

「I'm not sure what to do from here. Set, we'll enter the forest.」

「Guru~」

With Set raising a cry of agreement, they entered the forest directly.

Originally, Rei and Set were weaker when fighting in the narrow forest. However, as the other party in this case were Goblins, he judged that they didn't need to be too nervous as they entered the depths of the forest.

They had walked for about an hour after entering the forest. Set, who was walking in front of Rei, abruptly stopped.

「Gurururu~」

They watched the surroundings to be on guard. As expected, even though it was beside the highway, the trees with large trunks blocked the sunlight from coming in with their leaves and branches. The surroundings were dim even though it was day time. Although the surrounding temperature had increased considerably, Rei didn't feel it thanks to the Dragon Robe, for a normal



adventurer, the heat and sweat would increase fatigue.

「Gururu~!」

In this situation, Set gave a cry, created a water ball and shot it at a grassy place covered with bushes.

And the next moment.

「Gyi~!」

An unpleasant scream was heard from the bushes, 20 Goblins revealed themselves nearby.

# Chapter 18

In response to the Goblin subjugation quest, they had entered the forest beside the highway for about an hour. A scream burst out from the bush that Set had fired a water ball into and 20 goblins appeared, surrounding Rei.

「Ambush.....no, would they lay an ambush so far into the forest? In that case, I probably ran into this group of Goblins by chance.」

Rei muttered while holding the Death Scythe. His eyes quickly observed the Goblins.

(2 rusted long swords and 3 similar daggers, the rest have clubs. ....The story was that Goblins with high intelligence could use weapons, but all the members have weapons. Though it's possible that only Goblins with high intelligence have gathered.....)

「Hah!」

A Goblin at the back hurled a stone in a preemptive strike. Pouring magic power into the Death Scythe, the stone was cut down in one strike. All the huge, 1m diameter trees in the area were also cut.

He didn't think that he would be able to cut tree trunks of that thickness. Though he was surprised when all the trees started falling, he immediately shouted to Set to take advantage of the situation to fight.

「Set, defeat the Goblins isolated by the trees!」

「Gururu~!」

The trees slowly fell, he gathered the thoughts in his mind as they fell towards the group of Goblins.

(In the end, its best if I find out if there is a rare species like they mentioned in the guild. I don't see it here, the leader probably realizes that there is a danger at the front lines.)

「Gyi~! Gyi~!」

「Gyi~!」

「Gigyī~!」

The Goblins divided into two groups to evade the falling tree as the shouted something at each other. Rei confirmed the situation and set up the Death Scythe to his right. Set moved himself respectively to the left.

「Haah!」

As the trees suddenly fell down, the Goblins were thrown into confusion. Rei entered and wielded the large scythe with abandon. The magic blade cut sharply through the trees without any resistance. The goblins weren't able to block it. Rei's large scythe went through the bodies, limbs and parts of the heads of the goblins without any resistance.

One strike. Most of the Goblins in the area died with one hit or were put in a state of near death.

Among the Goblins who had weapons, the one with the rusty long sword instinctively thrust out the weapon to block the large scythe. However, compared to the magic item battle axe that Vargas used, using the rusty sword to block the Death Scythe was like telling it to catch a huge waterfall with a small glass. The resistance was like no resistance, it smoothly cut through the long sword, arm and body, covering the ground in offal.

「Gyī~!」

The remaining Goblins divided by the tree, who saw more than half of their group killed in one attack, ran in all direction at full speed to try to escape.

Rei thought whether to chase for a moment, the request to subjugate Goblins had only asked for 5. It was better to take the killed Goblins as food for Set and the Death Scythe while there was time. Because of this, he judged that they wouldn't chase.

「Gururururu~!」

Set's cry could be heard from the other side of the tree. Rei judged that the other side had been cleaned up with no problems and moved over the big tree to Set.

What was left were the corpses of Goblins crushed by water balls, torn by

sharp forefeet claws or bitten to pieces. In total, there were 4. It was two fewer than Rei, Rei had killed 6 with a single blow while Set had knocked down 4. If you think about the fleeing goblins, the fight was good.

「Guru～」

As Rei saw it when he approached, he praised Set and rubbed his head. A wry smile floated onto Rei's face, in contrast with the the Goblin corpses scattered around.

After patting him for a little while, he praised Set's results, turned around and began collecting the proof that the subjugation was completed.

By the way, in the case of Goblins, not many shops in the guild purchased their materials, because of that, he only stripped the right ears and magic stones.

「Set, keep watch of the surroundings while I recover the proof of subjugation and magic stones.」

「Guru～」

When Rei saw Set nod, he took the mithril knife from his waist.....then put it back and took a iron dagger out from the Misty Ring. It was an item he had taken from Vargas's companion.

(As expected, it's too much of a waist to use the mithril knife to cut up the Goblins. I obtained this with much effort, I might as well use this dirty and scratched knife.)

The right ear of a Goblin, which was the proof of subjugation, was chopped off with the knife, the chest was cut open and a magic stone the size of his little finger tip taken out from the heart.

(Aside from the Water Bear, I don't feel particularly troubled killing human like monsters. Though the fusion with Zepairu may have contributed, when I killed them.....I'm lucky I didn't feel hesitant or worried. Though I feel a little disgust at killing something human like, that was it. Maybe because this is Elgin and not Japan, in Rome do as the Romans do. In the first place, it's not good to be an adventurer if you have a feeling of not wanting to kill the target.)

While thinking like so in his mind, Rei cut of a right ear and dug out a magic

stone one after the other.

By the way, though he collected the magic stones of the Goblins, as they were one of the weakest monsters, Rei judged that it was impossible for Set or the Death Scythe to gain a skill even if they absorbed the magic stones and put the stones into the Misty Ring without hesitation. The magic stone of goblins were sold for the super cheap price of one copper coin, still, it was considered better than nothing.

After finishing the dismantling of the four Goblins that Set knocked down, Rei turned his eyes to the Goblins weapons for a moment. However, the long sword and daggers were rusted and useless, he still couldn't repair them by himself. Though it might be possible to ask a blacksmith or weapon's shop, the repair cost would probably make it a deficit. When Rei judged determined that it would be deficit, he crushed the weapons with the Death Scythe's handle so that they couldn't be reused by the Goblins that ran away earlier.

By the way, although clubs were also scattered around, he left them as they were. Though he called it a club, they were just branches used as club substitutes, Rei judged that they could be made immediately just by taking branches from trees in the vicinity and left them alone.

「Well, next are the ones I defeated. Set, the tree.....no.」

As he was about to speak, he remembered what he tried in the Forest of Monsters. A tree that was knocked down then could be stored in the Misty Ring. In that case, this tree should also be able to be stored.

Though there was nothing particularly useful in storing the tree, Rei was optimistic about it and thought that it would come in handy.

「Alright. Now the object obstructing the way has been temporarily removed. Set, continue to keep watch.」

「Guru~」

Because the fallen tree had disappeared, there was now space to move about. Leaving the watch to Set, Rei began dismantling the Goblins that he had killed. The Goblins where in a different state compare with Set's because he had cut them with the Death Scythe, torsos, hands, feet and heads were everywhere with offal and blood on the ground, flesh was scattered around. In

such a state, Rei looked for heads to cut the right ears off, the magic stones were also taken from the hearts. By accident, as Rei reached out to the other corpses, he felt a gaze. It seemed that something was quietly observing them.

「Guru~」

Set was wary of the surroundings and was restless and looked sharply around.

(There's an uncomfortable feeling, but I can't pin down the position. ....Is it the rare species I heard in the guild? What is it's aim? Is it safely waiting for us to leave? Or is it waiting to attack us by surprise when we finish dismantling and are not on guard? I would like the magic stone of that monster if it can hide that not even Set can find it. I should be able to lure it out.)

As Rei cut off the right ear of the last Goblin, he made up his mind to wait for a chance to defeat the monster. As he went to take out the magic stone from the heart.....Set abruptly kicked the ground and flew next to him.

The next moment, something red hit the Goblin corpses that Rei was dealing with a few seconds ago and fire spread out.

「Tch, flame magic in the forest? I can't do anything about that. Set!」

「Gururu~!」

With a cry, Set quickly made a water ball. The flames that were coming from the Goblin corpse were successfully extinguished before they could spread to the surrounding vegetation.

While confirming that, Rei quickly looked at the surrounding area, he felt something from the tree above and raised up the Death Scythe by reflex.

Gyin~! A sharp sound was made as the Death Scythe came in contact with a long sword above Rei's head, it cut sword in half when they collided.

「Hah!」

He struck out with the Death Scythe without looking. The thing he attacked pushed out a shield to block it, it was split in two like the long sword.

Still, by sacrificing the shield, it escaped the blow from the Death Scythe, using the force from the blow, it landed a distance away from Rei and Set.

Landing there, Rei could finally see the other party before him.

It had a partially broken long sword and a small shield that had been split in two. However, different from a normal Goblin was its skin colour. While a normal Goblin had green skin, the Goblin in front of Rei had red skin. In addition, it was larger and a head taller than a normal goblin.

「I see, a rare species. I can say that it's strange.」

A smile floated onto Rei's face when he saw the clear differences in appearance compared with a normal Goblin. Maybe it took it as a sign of contempt, it threw away the shield that had been cut in two and held the long sword that was missing half the blade.....

「Gyi~!」

Right after it gave a cry, a ball of fire appeared in front of its eyes.

(It's similar to Set's water ball. In that case, should I call it fireball? With the sword, the Goblin looks like a soldier, it also looks like it can use beginner class attack magic. Should I call it a mage knight? However, there's no meaning if the magic isn't fired!)

He kicked the ground and tried to quickly hit and kill the rare species before it could shoot the fireball. He cut through the fireball to the Goblin while maintaining magic power in the Death Scythe.

「Gyi!?!」

The fireball was cut by the blade of the large scythe and dispersed. He also gave a shallow cut into the chest of the Goblin.

It got anxious when he saw its own fireball disappear and hurled the remains of the long sword at Rei.

In a sense, the haste of the Goblin was natural, was its magic cut through by other magic? Though it wasn't impossible for a weapon to cut through magic, it was the first time the Goblin had seen a magic item that could hold magic power.

「It can certainly use magic, its ability lives up to its name of a rare species. However, your biggest advantage was to hide your presence. Because you missed the killing blow, now you are the one hunted.....ha!」

The first swing of the Death Scythe was downwards on purpose.....evading it, the Goblin was relieved for a moment.

「Gyi~!」

While screaming, the Goblin tried to stand up, the Goblin's biggest mistake was to focus all his awareness on Rei. A sure kill strike came from the sky. But it was no wonder, without allies, he couldn't cast fire magic without being interrupted.

Nevertheless, it was a fatal mistake to only concentrate on Rei.

Tricked by the handle of the Death Scythe below, Set crept up and knocked the Goblin on its back .....with the sharp claws of an eagle, he pinned its neck with the unmatched strength of a lion.

「Gyi~!」

Although Set was taking on a rare species, a Goblin was still only a Goblin. Even if you look in the Adventurers Guild, there is a huge difference between F rank and A rank. After all, the rare species is still only one rank higher than the normal E rank Goblins. To the end, the Goblin didn't realize the difference in status, a cracking sound was heard as the bones in its neck were crushed, the life in it was extinguished.

「Set, you've done well.」

「Gururu~」

After pampering Set by patting his head, the magic stone was pulled out from the Goblin's heart. The magic stone was larger than the ones from the other Goblins, which were only the size of his finger tip.

Although Rei hesitated over whether to let Set or the Death Scythe absorb the magic stone, he judged that it was inconvenient for Set to only have Water Ball as a ranged skill and gave it to him.

「Set.」

「Guru~」

The magic stone in his palm was sucked up by the beak and swallowed in a single gulp.



And.....

【Set has mastered『Fire Breath Lv.1』】

The announcement message that he had heard before echoed in his head.

「.....It was the magic stone of the Goblin that knew fire ball, so why fire breath?」

Rei muttered while spitting out a sigh.

\*\*\*\*\*

【Set】

『Water Ball Lv.1』『Fire Breath Lv.1』new

【Death Scythe】

# Chapter 19

The corpse of the red skinned Goblin lay in front of Rei and Set's eyes. It was a rare species of Goblin. Because Set killed it in a single blow by breaking its neck, you could hardly see any injuries on it. In front of the corpse, Rei was thinking as he patted Set.

(A rare species. In other words it appears rarely. There basically isn't much material to strip off a Goblin, but what if it's a rare species? There may be usable parts. Fortunately, if I store it in the Misty Ring, time doesn't flow and it won't rot, I'll store it in there for now. I'll check if it can be used by listening around at the Adventurers Guild or searching at the library.)

Arriving at a conclusion, he touched the corpse to store it into the Misty Ring.

(Also, the right ear proof of subjugation, I'd better not submit it. If it gets known that I defeated a Goblin rare species I'll be asked about the magic stone. Though I could make a temporary excuse and say the magic stone was destroyed when I defeated it, if the same excuse keeps getting used, it will become suspicious. In that case, I think it would be better if I just didn't say I fought a rare species.)

「Guru~?」

As Rei was lost in thought, he looked at the surroundings while patting Set's head.

The purpose of the request was to subjugate a minimum of 5 Goblins. Although he didn't cut off the right ear of the rare species as proof of subjugation, the request had already been completed as he had secured 9 ears.

「And there's still time left.」

He muttered as he looked at the sky, dimmed by the trees. The battle with the Goblins had taken a few minutes, the battle with the rare species had also taken a few minutes, Rei judged that there was still time before noon.

Though, for the time being, Rei had payed the inn for lunch, it was naturally only Rei's share. Also, the amount of food was insufficient for Rei. Although he

had a small body, it didn't have a good energy efficiency.

「In that case, it's necessary for me to hunt monsters for Set and my meals.」  
「Gururu~」

Rei's mutter might have been heard. That's right, Set seemed to say as he gave a small cry.

「Right, then let's search for monsters.」  
「Gururu~!」

「.....Can't find anything.」  
「Guru~」

To Rei's words, Set gave a small, sad cry.

Though they had hunted for prey for about an hour after defeating the Goblin rare species, they had found nothing at all.

However, in a sense, that was natural. This forest was a forest next to the highway to Gimuru, the guild regularly sent out subjugation quests to kill monsters so as to not hurt the travelers and merchants that pass through. The Goblins that Rei and Set defeated should originally have been defeated by those quests. However, the Goblins got a rare species leader and took shelter in the depths of the forest. According to the instructions of the leader, they concealed themselves attacked people passing through the highway before escaping.

(Come to think of it, I heard a story in the guild where a group of merchants and travelers were attacked.....but isn't it a bit strange that there was a rusty long sword? From the guild, only the rare species had a proper sword. .... Were they able to steal weapons? Did they gather them somewhere and keep them or did they take weapons from the baggage?)

Though Rei thought about it in his mind, he had no intention of looking for Goblin treasure as he had no money troubles.

As for Rei and Set right now, they would rather find a monster to eat than to find a silver coin.

Maybe their wish was heard, Set went in front of Rei, stopped and looked at the surroundings.

「Guru~」

From that appearance, Rei judged that it was a monster, set up the Death Scythe to attack and waited for it.

And the next moment.

「-!？」

Something small flew sharply out from the bushes nearby.

Rei reflexively cut at the flying object with the Death Scythe. The object that was cut flew through the sky and slammed into a tree trunk with a bichari~ sound.

Rei looked at the tree trunk in an instant to see what it was that attacked him, there was a long strip of flesh with a dark red colour.

「It is a kind of snake？」

Rei gave a small mutter, his doubt was settled by the existence that sprung out of a bush the next moment. A huge frog, up to Rei's knees, appeared. It's skin was covered in a dark red viscous liquid similar to the tongue Rei had cut, it looked at Rei and Set with an emotionless gaze.

(A frog in this forest.....there was a F rank subjugation quest for Poison Frogs.....is it this fellow?)

Rei didn't sense it as he muttered in his mind, the next moment, the frog kicked against the ground and used its jumping ability to silently attack Rei.

But.....

「Fool.」

Even if you said that the frog had a special jumping ability, it was still only a F rank monster. Rei calmly read the enemy's attack path and moved the Death Scythe into the path, adding a little bit of magic power.

「Gero~!？」

Once it jumped into the air, the Poison Frog couldn't change its trajectory. One strike and it landed in two halves. The upper half and lower half were split by the impact as they fell to the ground.

「Gururu~!」

Set barked sharply and tried to eat the corpse.....

「Set!」

Set's movement was stopped by the stationary Rei.

「Guru~?」

Why? Set seemed to say as Rei took out the book Dismantling Monsters for Beginners that he had bought yesterday from the Misty Ring.

「Perhaps this is the Poison Frog, in other words, it probably has poison like its name says. You should be calm, it's not good to eat the meat of a monster that has poison.」

「Guru~.....」

Though he accepted Rei's explanation, Set still looked at the Poison Frog regretfully.

The skin was covered in a dark red liquid, it was obviously poison. It seemed to be a strong one as well. Asking Set to watch the surroundings, he looked up the poison toad in the book.

(The material that can be taken are the tongue, a poison sac in the body and the two hind legs. But.....)

He turned his eyes to the ground while comparing it to the book. The tongue had been cut off by the Death Scythe, the corpse of the Poison Frog was also split in 2. About the tongue, it wasn't cut at the base since it hadn't fully extended, however, it was still possible for Rei to collect it. The hind legs were good as they were completely untouched. However, the most valuable part, the poison sac, had been torn in two, it was impossible to collect. The poison from the torn sac had already overflowed into the internal organs of the Poison Frog.

「The tongue can be recovered later, first is the magic stone.」

Muttering, he took out the magic stone from the heart using the iron dagger, taking care not to touch the poison that had leaked out. It was somewhat larger than the ones from the normal Goblins. Similarly, he cut off the two rear legs.

To be accurate, it should be noted that the purchasing of the rear legs was for

food rather than materials. The poison is removed by butchers who deal with monster meat and sold over the counter. It is possible to sell it at a surprisingly high price as it a expensive ingredient.

Although it was impossible to strip the poison sac, it could be used by pharmacists to create an antidote for the monster's poison. The tongue is generally used as part of a bow.

Storing the magic stone and rear legs in the Misty Ring, he recovered the tongue that had fallen to the base of the tree.

In addition, the proof of subjugation was the webbed right fore foot. However, seeing the venom rotting it, Rei furrowed his eyes and gave up.

「So, the remaining corpse.....what to do with it.」

In the case of the corpses of the Goblins they fought before, they could keep it as food as there was no poison. However, it was a Poison Toad that was in front of Rei. That is, it's the corpse of a poisonous toad. Moreover, the poison sac had been torn and the poison spilled.

「I wonder if I should burn it just in case but.....」

「Guru~」

To Rei's muttering, Set gave a small cry against it.

Set was worried about poisonous smoke if they burned it. Rei understood somehow and nodded while stroking Set's back.

「That's right, there will be more damage if I burn it. Should we leave it as it is? Well, I've stripped the material off, let's hope the next monster is delicious.」

「Guru~!」

Set gave a short cry and continued to walk through the forest.

While walking through, Set discovered a fruit from a tree, pecked at it and found it was tasty. They advanced through the forest while being cautious about the quest.

「Here.....」

After advancing through the forest for a while after killing the Poison Toad, they abruptly came to a clearing.

There was a large lake in the space that spread before Rei and Set's eyes, it seemed to be used as a watering hole by monsters and beasts. As for evidence, there was a beast that resembled a Fanged Boar at the edge of the lake.

「Guru～」

Set pressed his face against Rei as if pleading for something. Rei understood what Set wanted to say to him. He likely wanted to kill the boar for his meal.

While scratching his head, Rei examined the boar's appearance.

The wild boar had huge tusks growing from its mouth, with its sturdy build, it was probably heavier than Rei. Such a wild boar had its mouth to the water's surface and was hungrily drinking water from the lake.

(It hasn't noticed us yet because we're about 100m away. In other words, the conditions are set for a surprise attack. A wild boar with tusks.....perhaps it's the Fanged Boar that I ate in the stew at the Dusk Wheat?)

「Guru～」

Rei nodded at Set, who wanted to rush in early, and whispered to him.

「Ready Set? I'll draw the Fang Boar's attention with fire magic, you take the chance to attack it from the sky.」

「Guru~!」

Leave it to me, Set seemed to say as he gave a small cry and moved away from Rei. He determined that he wouldn't be found by the Fang Boar if he flew into the sky.

While watching Set move away, Rei considered what kind of magic to use.

(The first objective is to not let the Fang Boar escape. In other words, it's necessary to stop it from moving. In that case.....I see, it's easiest to cover the area in flames.)

Rei watched Set flap his wings and rise up to the sky in the distance and raised his magic power and started an incantation.

『Flame, form a burning wall that scorches all that touches it with fire.』

According to the incantation Rei spoke, magic power was emitted, a crimson

line drew a circle centering around the Fang Boar.

The crimson line was even drawn on the surface of the lake that would normally put fires out. The moment the Fang Boar noticed, it kicked the ground in an attempt to escape.

『Ultra Flame Wall』

TLN: No joke, that's what he called it.

As Rei completed the incantation, flames raced across the lines that lay on the ground, it formed a wall that divided the Fang Boar from the world outside.

「Burrururu!」

The Fang Boar saw the huge wall of flames appear in front of its eyes and stopped its dash. The cry that leaked from its mouth sounded closer to a horse than a wild boar.

「Burrururu」

Though the Fang Boar was running about in confusion in front of the wall of flame, the temperature of the flame was enough to lightly burn the fur on its skin every time it went near. With this, it kept trying to approach before retreating.

How much damage would it receive if it tried breaking through the wall of flame in front of its eyes.....no, because it was a wild animal, it likely understood by instinct. However, its hesitation was the Fang Boar's greatest mistake. If it had broken through the wall of flame at this time, it would receive considerable damage from burns, still, there would be the possibility of surviving. However, by hesitating, the existence leading to its death came from the sky.

「Gurururururu~!」

Set swooped from the sky while raising a cry. By the time the Fang Boar noticed his presence, it was already too late. The next moment, the forefeet of the Griffon swung down and slashed off the head.

「Gururu~!」

While raising a cry of victory, Set started pecking at the raw meat. The Fang



Boar was over 100kg but it slowly went into Set's stomach.

Rei canceled the flame wall while smiling wryly at the scene.

Afterwards, they ate lunch while watching the scenery of the lake. Although Rei felt something was lacking, he waited for Set to slowly finish his meal.

「Right ear proofs of subjugation, there are 9. I would like them to be confirmed.」

In the guild in the city of Gimuru, the right ears of the Goblins were taken from the Misty Ring and handed to the receptionist.

As the request for the day had been completed, after Set was satisfied with eating the Fang Boar, they decided to return to the city.

「Ah, yes. Um, because 1 ear is 3 copper coins, it comes to a total of 2 silver and 7 copper coins. So, how was your first quest?」

He shook his head at those words as the receptionist passed the reward.

「There were Goblins but I didn't see a rare species. Perhaps that fellow is good at hiding itself.」

「Really.....I understand. Please mark the area here.」

「I say, I didn't actually see it though. It's only going to be my guess?」

「Yes. But it's still the opinion of a person who was on site.」

「.....Even if I was on site, today is the first time I've acted as an adventurer.」

「I won't believe that a person who is followed by a Griffon is a normal G rank. Other than that, thank you for your work today.」

Nodding to the receptionist who bowed her head, Rei's first day as an adventurer was finished.

In addition, because tongue of the Poison Toad had been cut in the middle, he only got 5 copper coins for it. 2 silver coins were given for both rear legs while the Goblin magic stones were sold for 9 copper coins.

# Chapter 20

It was night time on the same day Rei and Set returned to the city of Gimuru.

The center of the city of Gimuru. There was a mansion there.....although it was too large to be called that, the building was too small to be called a castle.

When Gimuru was still a frontier town, it was built for the case of a siege if there was an emergency, it was a building that gave a rugged impression.

The master of the building was Margrave Rowlocks, who ruled the streets of Gimuru.

The area Margrave Rowlocks governed was not just the city of Gimuru but the area around it. However, Gimuru was the only city that existed in the area.

Naturally, the actions taken by the successive generations of margraves that ruled Gimuru, up to Margrave Rowlocks, were to make the region prosper. However.....that is, they were forced to give up building new villages due to the presence of monsters.

When night comes, the monsters outside the city run rampant around the highways. There are no carpenters willing to build houses under that situation. It wasn't possible for a person to build a house during the daytime and return to Gimuru for the night as the next morning, the house would be destroyed.

Although someone had tried to make an outer wall first to prevent that, it wasn't possible to build it in a day. The next morning, the partially constructed outer wall had been destroyed overnight.

Originally, the city of Gimuru was set up as a frontier base for the Mireana kingdom. As for how the city was built with monsters appearing every night, it was done with pure manpower by defeating all the monsters that came out. In order to do that, around half the military force of the Mireana kingdom was gathered here until the city of Gimuru was completed, that was the scale of it.

At any rate, the lord of Gimuru unintentionally looked up to the ceiling after he saw the details of the report that had been submitted to his office.

Taking a break from his work, he took a sip of wine and took a deep breath.

After that, he looked at his face in the mirror that was in the room.

The face of a middle-aged man in his forties was reflected on the mirror. If anything, he gave the impression of a hard man. Adding to that, his mustache strengthened the impression.

After that, he took another deep breath and returned to his desk to look at the document he had seen earlier.

What was written was that one man had entered the city of Gimuru. The city of Gimuru was the only city in Margrave Rowlocks' territory. Because of this, its size was large and there were a lot of people as well. Normally, information about a stranger entering a city would not go to Margrave Rowlocks, who was a feudal lord. Well, if the person was a violent criminal or the heir of a large aristocracy of the Imperial City, it would be a different matter.

However, the contents in the report to Margrave Rowlocks was something that equaled that.

「.....A man accompanied by a rank A monster, Griffon, is it?」

After reading it, he reread it again and again. However, what was written therein did not change as he reread it.

「This is neither a dream nor an illusion. Should I be pleased or depressed about this?」

A man accompanied by a rank A monster. The report even read that he was an aspiring adventurer. If the contents were true, the city had just obtained a tremendous combat force.

Unnatural monster movement had been seen recently, purely thinking of it as a boost to the combat force could be considered divine grace.

「But, the timing is too good.」

The Margrave muttered as he looked at the documents.....no, glared at them.

Margrave Rowlocks gave a deep sigh and rang a bell that was nearby. A knocking sound immediately echoed into the room.

「Come in.」

「Excuse me. Margrave, did you call?」

Entering the room while saying so was a man in his twenties. The man was a subordinate of Margrave Rowlocks and acted as his secretary.

「Ah. Did you say Ranga was the garrison guard captain? Call him in. I want to hear the story of the submitted report.」

「I understand. At once.」

Seeing his instructions heard, he looked over the report again as the back of his subordinate quickly left the room after saluting.

「Abnormal monster behavior. There have been several rare species confirmed in this time. Will he become the seed of a disturbance or will he be an important help? .....I hope it's the latter.」

As Margrave Rowlocks muttered, the sound of knocking on the door was heard again.

「Come in.」

「Hah, I'm Ranga, guard captain of the garrison. I heard I was called.」

When he observed Ranga, he saw a intimidating beard and a tough looking face. As he opened his mouth to speak, a smile involuntarily floated onto his face as he saw the figure, similar to his own.

「Umm. I called for you about the matter of the report you submitted.」

「Yes.」

「The report says that a person who tamed a rank A monster, Griffon, has entered the town.」

「That is right.」

「.....What kind of person was he? Speak from your impression.」

To the words of Margrave Rowlocks, the figure of Rei, who had appeared during the day, floated into Ranga's mind. Because his appearance gave a strong impression, he was able to remember without much difficulty.

「First of all, with respect to his appearance, his height was only up to my chest.」

「That is.....rather small.」

Concerning the aspiring adventurer who had brought the Griffon, Margrave Rowlocks had imagined him to be a big man, however it was quite different from his expectations. He nodded his head.

「As for his face, his main features, if anything, were his blue eyes and red hair. His body was wrapped in a robe that seemed to be some sort of magic item, he also had a scythe taller than him as a weapon. In addition, it has been confirmed that he has a item box type magic item.」

「.....Really?」

He gave a doubtful look as thought about it to make sure.

Ranga caught the glance and nodded his head.

「Yes. There is no doubt.」

「What, he'll stand out like crazy.」

Small physique. A robe that is probably a magic item. A scythe taller than him. An item box magic item that is rare in this world. And a Griffon. When he associated those images in his head, it left an impression that stood out from every aspect. Although Margrave Rowlocks thought of the possibility of a spy from another country, such a person wouldn't be wearing such noticeable clothing.

「What did he do after entering the town?」

「According to the report, he went directly to the Adventurers Guild. After registering with the guild, he seems to have had a dispute with some D rank adventurers.」

Quarreling with adventurers. Hearing that, the Margrave's cheeks twitched.

「In other words, is the boy's purpose to crush the adventurers in the city of Gimuru?」

「No, according to the information I received, the adventurers seemed to have picked the fight.」

Hearing those words, he instinctively let out a sigh of relief. The existence of adventurers in the city of Gimuru was their lifeline, both as a combat force and as the economy. If the adventurers were swept from the city of Gimuru for some reason, the city of Gimuru would perish in the near future. The words of

Ranga were sufficient judgement for him to exhale in relief.

「When I hear about the boy's appearance, there doesn't seem to be a feeling of acting to stand out.」

「Yes, I also think so.」

「So, is there a possibility of being a spy or agent from another country?」

「Yes there is. However, I think the possibility is highly unlikely.」

「On what basis?」

「The boy seems to lack common sense, he didn't even know he needed tax to enter the city. And above all, he didn't have any gold, silver or copper coins.」

At that explanation, Margrave Rowlocks knit his eyebrows involuntarily. However, it wasn't due to the sense of crisis earlier.

「He doesn't know common sense, and he doesn't have any money either? .....Where has he lived until now?」

Even if there isn't much, money has spread out enough through the central continent. It is strange to come to the city without a single copper coin no matter how you think of it.

「According to the person, he seems to have lived with his magic teach in the mountains for a long time.....」

「But?」

「That is, he used the word magic (Majutsu), not magic (Maho).」

「.....What?」

Magic (Majutsu) and magic (Maho). They were both words that represent the same thing, but the word magic (Majutsu) was long obsolete. In the first place, most of the people now don't even know the word magic (Majutsu) now.

「How far into the mountains was it?」

While muttering, Margrave Rowlocks had almost excluded the possibility of Rei being a spy or agent from another country.

「That is, the person apparently doesn't know where is was. However, because his magic training has roughly finished, he was thrown out with space magic into the Forest of Monsters to train to become an adventurer or something.」

「Forest of Monsters.」

Margrave Rowlocks gave a low groan. It's a forest about 10 days walk from the town. If you talk about low rank monsters, you think of the slime or maybe wild beasts which aren't even monsters. If you look at the highest ranks such as dragons, they inhabit the Forest of Monsters. The Forest of Monsters.

「Yes. He seems to have killed a Water Bear and some Djarums, the fur was sold to pay for the tax.」

「Defeating a Water Bear which is rank C. Well, it's not so strange a story since he is followed by a Griffon.」

Water Bears are rank C and the Djarum is a monster of rank F. However, if the Djarums are in a flock, the rank of each monster jumps to rank D.

「For the time being, after hearing your story, I judge that there is little possibility of the person being from another country.」

「Yes, I think so myself. Certainly, as a combat force it is quite considerable, but they stand out making it hard for them to sneak about. In that case, they could be a decoy.....」

As he thought aloud, he shook his head as he noticed something.

「To begin with, there's no point in making a person who can control a Griffon a decoy. They're more likely to use him for something else.」

Margrave Rowlocks nodded at Ranga's words.

「Ah. I also think so. However, it is also true that there isn't no possibility. About the boy, Rei did you say? Keep an eye on him」

「Watch him, is that an order?」

「No, there is no point in giving an order to watch him. I mean to take care of him. At any rate, after hearing your story about his combat power, he seems to be weak in communicating as he only lived with his teacher. It's difficult to tame a Griffon, I don't want to lose a precious talented person because of some worthless incident. Be careful with the groups of nobles in particular. If they come into connect, inform me and I'll deal with it.」

「I understand.」

Aristocratic faction. They are a faction centered around the large aristocracy.

In the current Mireana kingdom, the King's faction, the aristocratic faction and the third neutral faction are in a power struggle. Well, the support ratio was about 6:3:1. Margrave Rowlocks belonging to the minority neutral faction.

However, it was also true that the aristocratic faction frequently meddled with them because their power was small. If they tried to meddle with the boy, Rei, who was accompanied by a rank A monster, Griffon.....Margrave Rowlocks had a sour expression as he thought of the possible following events.

The next day, when Rei was in the city of Gimuru, a party was fighting a battle against a monster a few hours distance from the city.

「Damn!」

A big man swung down a giant axe while swearing from his mouth.

「Gigi!」

An ant about 1m in length had its head cut as the axe swung down, it continued moving after raising its death cries.

「Vargas! Don't be careless!」

A man with a long sword and shield called out to his leader and used his shield to block the ant that lost its head from ramming Vargas. Finally, the battle came to an end as the man quickly cut off the leg of the ant that had lost its head.

「Oi, Vargas! You're always being too reckless!」

The man with the long sword and shield, Zorito, yelled at Vargas.

「I know! But I what I want to know is why we have such small fry as our opponents!」

The axe was swung down in irritation. The axe that swung down gouged into the earth, scattering sand and stone into the surroundings.

「Calm down. Don't forget we have a debt to pay. If we make a mistake and don't pay it back, we'll be wanted men.」

The voice of a man with daggers clicked his tongue in frustration.

Debt. The D rank adventurer group, Claws of the Hawk, was currently in debt.



It all started when they were celebrating after conquering a level of a labyrinth that was filled with magic traps.

Vargas, who was originally uncouth and rude, picked a fight with person who had just come to the Adventurers Guild to register. However, the person they picked a fight with the wrong person. After exchanging verbal insults and betting their money in front of the guild, they had been splendidly defeated. Their weapons and money had all been taken and they were left with fractured bones.

Especially for Vargas, adding insult to injury, the magic item battle axe that he had just found in the labyrinth was taken away.

And, although it was necessary to ask a magician from the medical house, who could use recovery magic, to heal them as they were hurt, all the cash the Claws of the Hawk had was taken by Rei, let alone the cost of treatment, they didn't even have enough money for meals that day.

But, the Claws of the Hawk were a D rank adventurer party. In other words, they had a decent credibility and track record. Thanks to their credibility and track record, they were able to borrow money to cover the costs of treatment and living from the guild. And naturally, the borrowed money had to be returned, because of that, they had undertaken a subjugation request for Soldier Ants.

It should be noted that the debt was purely medical and living expenses, though the weapons they used had been lost to Rei, they had spare weapons they could use.

Because money was borrowed from the guild, it wasn't possible to avoid paying it. Because the guild can contact all other branches around the world using a magic item, it would quickly be spread if such a thing happened. There would be bounty hunters aiming for them. ....Though in that case, the bounty for capture would be small, still, everyone in the Claws of the Hawk didn't want this to happen and desperately handled requests.

「Who's the Goblin Drool?!」

Vargas yelled while denying the dishonourable party name given by Rei.

# Chapter 21

The day after completing the Goblin subjugation request, the figures of Set and Rei could be seen on the highway. However, instead of flying on the ground like before, they were walking normally on the highway.

Actually, Rei wanted to fly through the sky to get around, however, he was asked by Ranga to stop landing near the city or on highways. It seemed to be an appeal from travelers and merchants that had fled scared when Set landed on the highway yesterday.

Rei didn't fly near the town and decided to give Ranga some face and didn't land on the highway either when he took his next quest.

TLN: The concept of face isn't unique to the Chinese, it is rarer in Japanese stories though due to the story settings. Drop a question if you don't know what it means.

「Well, the request this time is to subjugate Soldier Ants.....」

He recalled the contents of the request that had been posted in the guild.

In the past few days, near the city – that is to say within a few hours walking distance – the appearance of Soldier Ants had become more frequent.

For the subjugation request of the Soldier Ants, the proof of subjugation was the dagger like protrusion that grew on their backs. The reward for each part was 5 copper coins, about double that of the goblins.

According to the story Rei heard from the lady at the reception, there was probably a nest with a Queen Ant near the city of Gimuru and that the so called Queen Ant might appear. However, while Soldier Ants are rank F, the Queen Ant is a rank C, because of this, it was best to not mess with it if it was found.

(Rank C, the Water Bear was also rank C when I found out later. Then if I let Set or the Death Scythe absorb the magic stone, acquiring a skill is certain. In that case, I'll aim for it.)

While thinking this in his mind, he advanced along the highway with Set while

looking for Soldier Ants.

Why didn't they fly? Though Set gave a cry as if asking, Rei stroked his back to soothe him as they proceeded along the highway.

It should be noted, though they occasionally met passersby, as soon as they saw Set and Rei, they would pass by before running at full speed towards Gimuru.

「Gururururu~!」

They had walked along the highway for about an hour. Although Rei was distracted by the scenery around them, he switched to his combat state after hearing Set growl ahead of him.

Holding the Death Scythe, he confirmed something with a black appearance coming from the bushes surrounding the roadside.

「They came!」

They were some sort of black ant, that is, they were the Soldier Ants that needed to be subjugated. They also seemed to have found Rei. With threatening mandibles like a huge pair of scissors, they made gachi~ gachi~ sounds as if to intimidate him.

「Gigigigigi!」

Aside from its cry and size, they looked like a normal ant. If there was one difference, it would be the dagger-like protrusion that grew on their backs.

「Gigi!」

A Soldier Ant ran towards them while raising a short cry. Though it went straight for Rei, trying to bite and tear him apart with its sharp mandibles, its speed wasn't particularly fast. It was a less formidable enemy than the goblin rare that Rei fought yesterday by a great extent.

「Fu~!」

The Soldier Ant that had opened its mandibles to bite Rei was cut in half by the magic empowered Death Scythe.

Although Soldier Ants can still act if one of their legs are lost, it doesn't seem

to be possible if its body is cut in half, its legs didn't twitch for long before its movements stopped.

「Gururu~!」

Although he took down one, from the bushes it came from, 1, 2, 3, 4 and more ants made their appearance.

Rei unintentionally clicked his tongue.

「Set, Fire Breath!」

「Gururu~!」

Set opened his mouth while giving a high cry in response to Rei's voice. Flames spewed from his mouth the next moment. It was the newly learned skill from the magic stone of yesterdays goblin rare, but because it was at a low level at Lvl. 1, the flame breath was small, its range was also limited to 2~3m.

Still, the flames seemed to succeed in dealing moderate damage to the Soldier Ants, even if it didn't kill them, their movements were still dulled.

Even though they had numbers, when the movements of the Soldier Ants dulled, they were no longer enemies to Rei, instead of monsters that had to be fought, they were reduced to mere prey.

「Haaa!」

Pouring magic power into the Death Scythe, he cut through the necks with the blade and split their bodies in half. Striking their body with the handle to knock them up, he split them in one strike.

An ant was blasted apart by Set's Water Ball as he spewed a concentrated Fire Breath at another ant, turning it into charcoal. His powerful beak pierced through the ants body as he tore off its neck with his claws.

It was a few minutes after the fighting began. Over 30 Soldier Ants had been killed in a few minutes, body parts and fluids covered the ground.

「Gurururururu~!」

As Set raised a cry of victory, Rei was wary of more enemies coming. However, the bushes were still quiet after a few minutes passed.

「This seems to be the whole group.」

Rei finally spat out a sigh of relief after confirming that.

Asking Set to watch the surroundings, he went to retrieve the magic stones and proof of subjugation.

However, recovering the magic stone and projection from the Soldier Ant that was exhaustively burned wasn't possible as it had been turned to charcoal. It was also impossible to retrieve the magic stone and projection from the ant that had been blasted apart by the water ball.

(When an attack with too much power is used, it becomes impossible to collect the magic stone and proof of subjugation. I better take note of that from now on.)

While thinking of that, he took The Beginners Guide to Dismantling Monsters from the Misty Ring and opened to the section with Soldier Ants.

The materials listed in the book that could be stripped off the Soldier Ant were the antennas, which could be used for medicine, and the head and exoskeleton, which could be used as armour.

The antennas were easily cut off with a bronze knife, but the problem was the exoskeleton of the body.

Though the knife could cut through the gaps in the exoskeleton, it was considerably difficult work for Rei. Though he managed to strip the exoskeleton off the Soldier Ant, it wasn't in good condition.

Still, after taking some time, he did succeed in removing the exoskeleton and storing it into the Misty Ring.

「With this, the minimum subjugation amount is complete. Now we just have to look for the Queen Ant.....」

Rei looked around while spitting out a sigh. The corpses of 30 Soldier Ants were scattered about. The amount seemed to be an advance force. The sigh was involuntary as he thought about the number of Soldier Ants he would have to contend with to aim at the Queen Ant.

The Soldier Ant itself wasn't a very strong opponent. No, there wouldn't be a

problem if you just called it weak. This wasn't without grounds as he with Set had wiped out more than 30 Soldier Ants in a few minutes.

However, the problem was the amount of fatigue. They hardly felt any fatigue even after defeating 30 of them this time. But what about fighting the same amount several times, or tens of times, what if the battle was repeated dozens of times.

Certainly, for Set and Rei, their bodies were tougher than normal monsters and humans. However, this didn't mean they had infinite strength. It is natural for movement to dull if you are tired, and if your movement dull, you become more likely to be hit by an attack. Even if their bodies had eternal youth, they were not immortal.

Still, to miss out on the magic stone of the C rank Queen Ant was too regretful.

「Well, what to do.」

Thinking while thrusting the handle of the Death Scythe through the body of a Soldier Ant.....suddenly, he felt a sense of incongruity with the exoskeleton.

(What? Why do I feel something different when I look at this exoskeleton? This exoskeleton looks normal.....so, apart from size, the appearance and size are the same as the other ants. There's no mistake. However.....!?)

Muttering in his mind, he finally understood his sense of dissonance. An ant that leaves its nest will usually grow wings, a so called winged ant. However, there were no wings attached to the Soldier Ant that lay before his eyes.

(In other words, not all the ants in Elgin have the habit of becoming winged ants? Or did these ants not leave the nest to become winged ants.....there's a strong chance of being wrong either way.)

All the ants the Queen Ant controlled didn't have wings to fly.....that would be considered too optimistic. However, the few Soldier Ants Rei and Set defeated didn't have wings. In other words, the chance of success was higher if instead of going along the ground, Rei and Set flew, mounting a surprise attack on the Queen Ant from the sky, Rei thought.

Whether or not it was fortunate, from the information obtained from the

guild receptionist, if the Queen Ant is defeated, the swarm, which is lead by the Queen Ant would no longer be able to maintain itself and will scatter into the surrounding area. The number of times Soldier Ants will appear near the city of Gimuru would increase for a while, however, it would still be better than the swarm governed by the leading Queen Ant.

「.....Set」  
「Guru~?」

While watching the surroundings, Set, who was pecking at the corpses of the Soldier Ants, curiously turned his head to face Rei.

「Try to search the Queen Ant from the sky. Launch a surprise attack from the sky to kill the Queen Ant.」  
「Guru~!」

Nodding at Rei's proposal, Set crouched down. Rei vaulted onto Set's back while holding the Death Scythe.

「Gururu~!」

Raising a sharp cry, Set flapped his eagle like wings after a run up of a few steps. Rei's cheeks unintentionally loosened as they steadily ascended into the sky by kicking the air, a smile floated onto his face as he saw another group of Soldier Ants heading to the place they were at before, they had evaded a second battle.

「Though it would have taken some time for more to arrive after Set and I defeated the first group, we would have been stuck in a constant war of attrition. The correct decision was made early.」  
「Guru~」

I agree, Set seemed to say as he gave a short cry. While patting his neck, a grassy plain a forest spread along the highway.....it wasn't easy to see deeply into the forest from the sky.

They had flown through the sky for about 20 minutes. Although they occasionally saw the figure of a monster passing through, the figure of the Queen Ant, which was their aim, could not be seen anywhere.

「Its not so easy to find after all.」

「Guru.....Guruu~!」

Set raised a cry as if to comfort Rei but changed into a sharp cry half way. It was a cry of precaution.

The reason he raised his voice was immediately found. The enemy appeared from the forest. Because there wasn't an object for comparison, it can't be said for sure, however, they looked larger than the Soldier Ants. Moreover, they had wings growing from behind their necks. They flew through the sky, straight for Set. There were 5 in number.

「To fly through the sky, moreover, they're bigger than Soldier Ants. Imperial Ants, or should I call them Imperial Ants? Well, an enemy is an enemy. Let's go, Set!」 TLN: More word differences, the first Imperial Ant is written in Kanji while the second in in Katakana.

「Gururururu~!」

Flapping his wings while raising a courageous cry, Set flew straight towards the Imperial Ants in a straight line without hesitation.

The distance between them decreased.....

「Gururururu~!」

A water ball appeared near Set's face and with Set's cry, was fired on the Imperial Ants.

「Gigigigi~!」

Though the Imperial Ant flying at the top avoided the attack by tilting its body at an angle, the Imperial Ant that flew behind it didn't fair so well. Hitting it in the face, the water ball exploded at the same time. Most of the upper body exploded with it and it fell to the ground.

「Four remaining.」

Muttering, Rei began to cast a spell.

『Flame, collect and gather. One for all. All for one. Appear at my command.』

After Rei finished casting the spell, a mass of flame 1m in size gathered at the tip of the Death Scythe Rei held. Facing the Imperial Ants, Rei swung the Death Scythe with all his strength. At the same time, the flame flew straight towards



the enemy.

However, its speed was only half the speed of the water ball Set had fired first, it was lacking speed in all aspects.

In fact, the Imperial Ants scattered so as to avoid the flames.....

『Bloom Flames!』

Flames exploded at the same time Rei activated his magic. A large amount of flames the size of his fist scattered into the surroundings at high speeds.

「Gigigigigigi!」

It was a magic that Rei had made in the image of fireworks, however, the power of the flame after the explosion wasn't that high.

Still there was enough power to burn the wings of the Imperial Ants, with their wings burnt completely, two of them fell to the ground.

Falling from a height of over 30m, they would not survive.

And there were 2 Imperial Ants left. But.

「Gururu~!」

One had its body crushed by Set's claws.

「Haah!」

The other was split in half by the blade of the Death Scythe wielded by Rei.

「Right, the next step is to find the position of the Queen Ant.....」

When Rei said that, a huge cry came from the surroundings.

「Gigigigigigigigigigiyi~!」

The main sounds were coming from near tree 30m ahead of Set. There was the figure of a giant ant monster bigger than the Soldier Ant and Imperial Ant.

In other words.

「Queen Ant」

「Gururu~!」

Set gave a sharp cry in agreement to Rei's words. Rei stroked Set's neck while

smiling at his bravery.

「Right. Then.....lets go!」

「Gurururururu~!」

Giving a high pitch cry in response to Rei's words, Set dived towards the Queen Ant on the ground.

# Chapter 22

「Haaah~!」

Set swooped down from the sky without any hesitation, Rei wielded the Death Scythe at the same time, pouring magic power into the Death Scythe while aiming at the large Queen Ant.

「Gigigigigigi!」

The Queen Ant opened its mouth, as if to shoot something.....

「-!? It's dangerous, Set!」

「Gururu~!」

Feeling a sense of crisis, Rei shouted to Set. Set understood and with a great flap of his wings, forcibly moved to the right.

The next moment, liquid was shot from the mouth of the Queen Ant, passing through the place Set was previously in a blink of an eye.

The liquid that was avoided fell to the ground, Rei saw the surrounding soil melting away while giving off smoke. The real nature of the liquid was an acid.....he judged that it was a kind of formic acid. TLN: Formic acid is a type of acid that ants can generate, typically not that powerful.

「Gigigigigigi!」

Dissatisfied that its attack had missed, it raised a loud screech while attacking with its huge forelegs.

As Set escaped the blow, Rei wielded the Death Scythe against a foreleg as they passed through the sky.

Swinging the Death Scythe, it tore through the foreleg without any resistance, the foreleg flew off in a direction to the left with the momentum it had left from swinging down.

「Gyi~!」

Maybe it had developed a sense of pain unlike the Soldier Ants, the Queen

Ant gave a short screech. Rei took advantage of this chance to jump from Set's back.

As soon as Rei landed on the ground, he jumped up at once, raising a sound and leaving a cloud of dust. At the same time, one of the Queen Ant's forelegs smashed the place Rei had landed.

He jumped continuously and took some distance from the Queen Ant. After doing that, Rei was finally able to observe the Queen Ant.

Its body length was much longer than the Soldier Ants, about 5m in length. It had an enlarged abdomen and a sharp spike grew from it like a stinger.

(.....It's pretty big. I was shocked for a moment.)

From the information Rei heard, the Soldier Ants were about 1m long. Because of that, even if it was larger, he had expected the Queen Ant to be about 3m in length. However, after coming in contact with the actual Queen Ant, its size was greatly larger than Rei's expectations.

「But, well.....」

Directing a sharp gaze at the Queen Ant, he readied the Death Scythe.

「I have no choice but to do it!」

With a shout, Rei started running towards the Queen Ant. From the sky, the figure of Set could be seen continuously shooting water balls, trying to support Rei.

「Gigigi!」

Finding it annoying, the Queen Ant swung one of its hind legs, destroying a water ball. However, Set's aim wasn't to damage the Queen Ant with the water balls. It was to give Rei a chance to get close with his physical ability and attack with the Death Scythe.

And that purpose was achieved.

『Flame, you are a snake. Therefore, burn my enemy as I desire.』

While chanting the incantation for spell that killed the Water Bear in the Forest of Magic, just like that time.....no, this time with the blade, he swung the

Death Scythe.

With only light resistance, the blade of the scythe went into the middle right leg of the Queen Ant.....

『Dance Fire Snake!』

The magic was released. The fire snake crawled into the leg of the Queen Ant that the Death Scythe was stuck into.

「Gigigigigigigi!」

The giant ant in front of his eyes screeched in pain as its body was burned from the inside.

However, worthy of being called the Queen Ant, it wasn't the end. While screeching, it tore off the leg that the fire snake was moving around and burning.

「What!?!」

Excessive, Rei was startled by the action. He immediately jumped backwards to create some distance between the Queen Ant.

At almost the same time he moved.....the Queen Ant threw the leg, that the fire snake was burning, at his location.

「Gigigi!」

Angered, the Queen Ant spat formic acid from its mouth at the small man in front of it that had injured it. Brandishing its remaining legs, it looked for a chance to use its sharp mandibles.

Rei evaded most of the attacks or parried them with the Death Scythe.

「It's tenacious!」

While evading the foreleg swinging down, he struck out with the Death Scythe. Cutting the remaining left foreleg, the only legs left was the middle leg on the left, the left hind leg and the right hind leg, three legs. However, the Queen Ant's attacks were still fierce. The poisonous spike that grew from its abdomen pierced into a tree and it spat out formic acid, melting rocks.

While remembering the tenacity of a C rank monster with admiration, Rei

brandished the Death Scythe to attract the Queen Ant's attention while confirming the figure of Set in the sky.

『Flame, burn the enemy according to my thoughts.』

While saying the incantation, a ball of fire about 30cm in diameter appeared in front of the blade of the Death Scythe. As Rei swung the Death Scythe.....he triggered the magic.

『Fireball!』

The ball of flame, similar to the water ball that Set used, flew off at high speed towards the Queen Ant as the Death Scythe swung down.

However, the Queen Ant evaded by dropping to the ground instead of receiving the attack directly. It knew the power of the magic flame after having its body burned by the magical fire snake.

.....But, it didn't know that that was Rei's aim.

It was lying on the ground. In other words, it was hard for it to make its next movement immediately. And Set, who was waiting in the sky for an opportunity to intervene, dived straight to ground. The Queen Ant watched out for Set at the beginning because of the threat of the water balls but then recognized Rei, who injured it, as the highest threat. So while fighting against Rei, the existence of Set had disappeared from its mind. Moreover, Set had waited for a chance without interfering as the fight between Rei and the Queen Ant intensified. All this for a chance to hit the Queen Ant with a decisive blow. Set did not overlook the rare opportunity that Rei had made.

「Gururururu~!」

Raising a courageous cry, with his eagle like talons and matchless strength..... and with the speed from his dive, he swung them at the Queen Ants head.

A gusha~ sound echoed into the surroundings. The head of the Queen Ant was shattered and pieces of flesh were scattered into the surroundings.

「Gururururu~!」

Set raised a cry of victory. It wasn't a strange story. It normally isn't a mistake to determine that it was a victory after the enemy's head was crushed.

However, Set had forgotten about what happened when they fought the Soldier Ants. With their vitality, they would keep moving for a little while even after their head was destroyed.

And the opponent that Rei and Set were fighting was a Queen Ant, a much more powerful existence than the Soldier Ant. Naturally, its vitality exceeded that of a Soldier Ant.

As if to show that, the Queen Ant that had lost half its legs and head raised one of its legs.

As Rei saw the scene in his eyes, he shouted at Set.....

「Set, dodge!」

The moment he shouted, he dashed towards Set while raising the Death Scythe.

「Gururu~!」

When Set heard Rei's shout, he reflexively kicked against the ground to flee to the sky. What was lucky this time was that the Queen Ant's attack was not swinging down but from the side. Set flew into the sky to evade the attack. The Queen Ant attacked with a single blow, sweeping from the side. It was only a single moment after Set's victory cry.

The sweeping attack was too slow and cut the air without even scratching Set.

The figure of Rei appeared in front of it.

「Die quietly!」

Hard and fast, the Death Scythe cut through the right hind leg and stinger of the Queen Ant.

「Haah!」

The left hind leg and other remaining leg were cut off by the returning blade. With the Queen Ant missing its head, 6 legs and stinger, all movements stopped for real.

「.....」

Because of what happened before, Rei readied the Death Scythe without

lowering his vigilance for a few minutes after the Queen Ant stopped moving. At last, after confirming that it wasn't moving, the tension was finally released.

「Gururu~」

Set, who was flying in the sky, landed and gave a cry with a lowered head, he seemed to be reflecting letting his guard down and putting Rei into a difficult position.

Stroking his head, Rei shook his neck.

「Don't worry. Though being careless was bad, it hasn't been long since you were born. It's good as long as you don't make the same mistake.」

「Guru~」

「Because I was a bit further away, I noticed it. What about if the positions were reversed? At that time I'll need your help Set.」

「Gururu~!」

Leave it to me, Set gave a cry with confidence compared to earlier.

Rei went next to the Queen Ant holding the Death Scythe with a smile on his face.

「Well.....how to dismantle this.....」

As usual, he took out the Beginners Guide to Dismantling Monsters from the Misty Ring to examine it. However, although there were dismantling methods listed for the Soldier Ants and Imperial Ants, one for the Queen Ant was not listed.

「What to say, the ants with wings were really called Imperial Ants.」

Wasn't that too simple? Was what Rei thought, however he didn't say it out because the names of the magic he used was also simplistic.

「In that case, I'll put off dismantling it and put it into the Misty Ring.....should I keep the magic stone?」

Muttering, he first stored the stinger and legs that he had cut off with the Death Scythe before taking out an iron dagger from the Misty Ring. he thought about how to take the magic stone out.

After losing the legs, stinger and head, only the body was left. Though it was



good, the body ended up falling down with softer belly touching the ground. He needed to cut part of the belly in order to retrieve the magic stone.

「Set, sorry but could you overturn the body so that the bottom is facing up?」  
「Guru~」

At Rei's words, Set gave a short cry and turned over the body of the Queen Ant without much difficulty.

Seeing that, Rei was convinced that Set's raw physical strength was greater than the Queen Ant's. However, it would still be difficult for Set to win if he fought the Queen Ant. Why was that?

(It would purely be because of Set's lack of experience. It hasn't been a week since Set was born, but the Queen Ant has survived among wild animals in this world of Elgin. Same applies to me.)

Given their physical strength and potential, it was strange that it wasn't possible for Rei and Set to easily kill a C rank monster like the Queen Ant when you thought about things like magic power. But that was if you only considered the difference in performance. However, having thought about it, Set didn't have much experience as it had only been a week since he was born, as for Rei he only had combat experience after coming to Elgin, so his experience was at the same level as Set. Most aversion to killing had been removed by the fusion, however, the world wasn't kind enough to let him survive with just that.

(I have to learn.)

Thinking to himself, he swung the iron dagger at the abdomen of the Queen Ant.....

Kin~!

The blade was repelled.

「Its like this even though it's not completely covered by a exoskeleton?..... Well, it can't be helped.」

Returning the iron dagger into the Misty Ring, he pulled out the mithril knife. Pouring magic power into the blade, he inserted it into the abdomen. As expected of an item made from mithril, it went into the Queen Ant's belly

without any resistance.

And Rei searched the inside of the Queen Ant.

「.....Hmm? Is there a heart?」

Originally, insects don't have an organ called a heart, instead its substituted by a dorsal vessel. Though Rei thought that he would have a hard time looking for the magic stone, it turned out that there was a small heart in the body of the Queen Ant.

「Well, it doesn't change the fact that the monster is an insect, I wonder if much is said about it?」

While wondering that, Rei took out a magic stone. The magic stone was the size of Rei's fist, it was almost the same size as the magic stone that they had got from the Water Bear in the Forest of Magic.

「It shouldn't be much different than the goblin's magic stone. The colour is yellow, in that case, is it an earth attribute?.....Well」

Rei picked up the Death Scythe that was put on the ground while holding the magic stone in one hand.

「Guru~?」

「Sorry Set. I plan to let the Death Scythe absorb the magic stone of the Queen Ant this time.」

「Guru~」

I don't mind, Set nodded. Smiling at that appearance, Rei poured magic power into the Death Scythe and threw the magic stone into the air.

There was no resistance as the magic stone was cut, the next second, the magic stone disappeared like smoke. This was a method to absorb the magic stone, similar to Set, the disappearance of the magic stone meant that it was absorbed.

【The Death Scythe has learnt the skill『Corrosion Lv.1』】

A message was announced in the same way as with Set.

The announcement seemed to occur whether Set or the Death Scythe absorbed the magic stone.

「Still, corrosion? Perhaps its from the influence of the formic acid, it's subtle though.」

Rei stored the body of the Queen Ant in the Misty Ring with a wry smile as he started walking towards the city of Gimuru.

It should be noted that Rei got off Set a short distance from the city entrance and walked back so that Ranga wouldn't complain.

The rewards of the day for the Soldier Ant's magic stones and materials was 7 silver coins, exceptional for a G rank adventurer.

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【Set】

『Water Ball Lv.1』『Fire Breath Lv.1』

【Death Scythe】

『Corrosion Lv.1』new

Corrosion: Corrodes metal objects if they are cut several times. The number of cuts required decreases as level increases.

# Chapter 23

The Adventurers Guild in the city of Gimuru. The receptionist Lenora played around with her ponytail while she depressingly looked at the document her boss had passed her.

Although various complex sentences were written in the document, it could be summarized as follows.

- Keep an eye on the adventurer Rei.
- If the adventurer causes trouble with the aristocratic faction, report it to the boss immediately.
- Similarly, report to the boss immediately if the adventurer gets tangled up with other adventurers.

「Haa.....」

She involuntarily spat out a sigh while reading the documents.

Fortunately, as there was only a little while before the noon bell, there were few adventurers in the guild. There were only several people eating an early lunch.

「What's wrong, sighing like that?」

The co-worker next to Lenora asked curiously. It was Kenny, a cat beast person. She stretched herself, showing off the flexible limbs that were a feature of the cat family, Lenora felt some envy when she looked at her own small chest.

TLN: So Kenny is female. The name Kenny is usually male but was used as a female name about 500 years ago or so.

「Here, look at this.」

Diverting her gaze from Kenny's large chest, Lenora passed the documents.

Because it was before noon and there were no adventurers around, it was her free time. She looked at the documents without any hesitation.

「Umm, what? .....Wait, what is this?」

Although Kenny was reading the document with curiosity at first, her cheeks started to cramp as she kept reading.

「It's as you see.」

「Doesn't the guild maintain neutrality with disputes between adventurers? But if anything happens you have to report it immediately.」

「That's not all, look at the seal of approval at the end.」

Kenny turned her eyes to the seal of approval at the end of the document, she stopped moving for a moment. She finally spoke after a few seconds.

「Wait, isn't this the seal of the guild master!」

「That's right.」

The seal of the guild master. That is, the instructions written in the document were ordered by the guild master.

「What did you do?」

「I haven't done anything in particular!」

To Kenny's doubtful look, Lenora retorted with a strong tone.

「But, if you haven't done anything, why did you personally receive orders from the guild master? I mean, what's your relationship with the adventurer Rei?」

「There aren't any special relations in particular.」

「In that case, why this instruction?」

「Perhaps because Rei is a human adventurer, I talked with him when he registered with the guild. When he completes requests, he brings them to me.」

「That's, isn't that Rei guy hitting on you?」

Lenora shook her neck slightly at Kenny's words.

However, what Kenny said wasn't wrong at all. After all, receptionists were the face of the guild. Naturally, the person who employs receptionists would choose beautiful women. As a result, the receptionists were idolized by the adventurers. An unattainable object, someone they want to be their lover, someone they wanted to spend the night with, they became that kind of existence.

Kenny was trying to say that in that sense, Rei was trying to chase Lenora. But

with the contact Lenora had with Rei, she didn't feel that he was trying to woo her.

There were many times where the adventurer would come to visit the same receptionist. No, it could be said that it was a daily occurrence. Because there was a bar in the guild as well, there would be several people each year who would get drunk and call out to Lenora. ....More than that and they would be sent to the guild jail for interfering with guild business. However, they would still end up tearfully paying the fine for a decent amount for obstructing business the next day.

「He isn't. In the first place, the Rei written in the document is a child. You know, the one that got in trouble with the Claws of the Hawk.」

Kenny easily knew who Rei was from Lenora's plain words. It wasn't uncommon for bad adventurers to mess up those who came for guild registration. However, it usually ends up with the other party sucking up to them. As a result, a hierarchical relationship between adventurers would be formed and used in various ways. However, in this case, they're mainly ordered to do trivial chores. Because of that, as experience as an adventurer could be gained, it wasn't always bad. Therefore, the practice was tacitly consented to in the guild.

However, the adventurers who were involved in the fight were D rank adventurers who had acquired experience and could be regarded as an independent group. Yet she heard from Lenora that they lost and even had their gold and weapons taken away.

Of course, the aim of the hot blooded adventurers was to beat up the person they fighting, Rei. Compared with the experienced adventurers, the difference in combat experience with someone who just became an adventurer was overwhelming. That's why Rei left a strong impression.

「That kid is it.....I heard that he tamed a Griffon, the guild master must have expectations of this rookie.」

Kenny remembered the figure of Rei in her mind. Wearing a robe, the figure with a large scythe stood out, it was someone you could remember without trying hard.

However, his facial appearance could not be remembered clearly due to the noticeably evil look of the scythe standing out.

「But, does the guild master hold that much expectation of the rookie to give special treatment?」

「Well, what's the ability of that Rei kid?」

「He has only received two quests. Subjugation quests for Goblins and Soldier Ants. He brought 10 proofs of subjugation from the Goblins. But for the Soldier Ants, he brought more than 30 proofs of subjugation.」

「.....Really?」

「Really.」

Goblins aside, defeating 30 Soldier Ants was something an organized C or D rank party would struggle with, yet he was by himself. Not many people could do that, let alone a rookie who just registered with the guild.

「.....Ahh, I see. If he brought his Griffon then he could do that. 」

「I think the fact that a Griffon follows that kid shows his ability.」

「So in the end, that Rei kid is a promising rookie.....speaking of which, because he is already counted as part of combat forces, the guild master favours him?」

「Well, that's most likely.」

「Is that kid only 15 years old? With that talent and ability at his age, he can likely aim for S rank in the future.」

Guild rank S. In this world, there are only three people who have that power level. The Rei that she was told to keep an eye on might become such a presence. When thinking about that, Lenora felt a *zokuri*~ feeling inside her.

「So, did the important Rei come today? I don't recall seeing him in the morning.」

Receptionist were truly the face of the guild, remembering individual adventurers during the morning rush.

「Because he received two subjugation requests on consecutive days, maybe he took a rest today?」

「Well, it could be so. It was over 30 Soldier Ants.」

「How should I say it, why are you suddenly interested about Rei?」

「Well, I want to get closer to that kid as its certain he's going to rise to the top

in future. Is an older wife okay? And you know, I have the men's favourite body.」

While saying so proudly, Kenny placed her arms across her rich breasts to emphasize them.

To that appearance, Lenora wore a thin smile and blood vessels appeared as she twitched with a pikuri~ sound.

「I see that Kenny doesn't seem to know that it's not necessarily so? Roughly speaking, no matter how much talent you say he has, he's still a rank G. It will take even longer even if he is promoted to S rank, by that time, I'm sure that when the time comes, Kenny will still look great.」

To Lenora's words, Kenny started twitching.

「Ara~ ara~, I wonder if the child with the poor body also has poor ideas.」  
「.....Kenny, are you trying to pick a fight?」  
「Are you, Lenora?」

An explosive tension. Right when those two people were in that state, the sound of the bell informing them that it was noon, could be heard.

Disregarding the two people in that state, the rest of the staff and receptionists looked away and left the counter in order to quickly have lunch.

With all the people leaving, the unfortunate noon duty was left to Lenora and Kenny, who were staring daggers at each other, betting their woman's pride.

Getting along by fighting, relatives that abhor each other, it was that kind of friendship. Although there are various similar words, Lenora and Kenny were two people who symbolized that.

Thus, though it wasn't peaceful, the daily life of the guild wasn't dangerous either.

「So this is a potion.」

While the battle for honour unfolded between the women in the guild, Rei was looking at a beaker that he held in his hand while sitting on the bed in his inn room. A blue liquid sloshed around in the beaker.

A blue sky was spread outside, with the sunlight pouring down, this weather



could be called good summer weather. However, Rei hadn't received a subjugation request from the guild today.

He was aiming was to examine the materials that could be removed from the Goblin rare the day before yesterday and the Queen Ant from yesterday. Therefore, he went to the bookstore from before in the morning and bought several books for a few gold coins. On his way back to the inn, a shop dealing in second hand items caught his eye. Besides potions to recover one's physical strength, standard mana potions that recovered magical power, medicine that recovered abnormal states and antidotes for paralysis, there were various other things sold such as traps and vices. He wasn't so interested in the gear as he had the Death Scythe for a weapon and the Dragon Robe for protection but he did buy several types of potions and stored them in the Misty Ring.

It should be noted why there wasn't any potions in the Misty Ring. It was because the developers of potions, Zepairu and his group has passed away. Takumu, who knew a lot about game development, tried to develop them but his research regarding potions didn't make any progress while he was still alive. Even if progress was made, potions were rare items and were not at a price where commoners or nobles could get there hands on.

「Even if I drink it it should be OK.」

Rei muttered while looking at the blue liquid.

The usage of the potion was extremely simple, drink or, as he heard from the second hand dealer, pour it onto a wound.

If you drink it, the effect is much higher. First of all, the effect reaches the whole body and not just the injured part, the recovery effect also lasts longer to some degree. In addition, physical strength is also somewhat restored. Although if applied at the location of the wound, the recovery is a bit faster, that's it. There are no additional effects such as sustained recovery or recovering physical strength.

But still, most people would apply it to a wound, the number of people who drink are few. Why was that? It was simply because potions were unpalatable.

「Yuck, I certainly would like to refrain from drinking this if possible.」

To confirm the story he heard from the second hand dealer, he dipped his finger in and licked a drop before frowning at the distaste.

The taste was like a concentrated green soup he had drank out of curiosity in Japan, that was what he felt.

「Even though it's good to have some effect, it wouldn't help if drunk in battle.」

Even if the effect was high, drinking it in combat would be impossible due to the taste, it would be suicidal for Rei.

It should be noted that there are some people in this world who willingly drink it.....but Rei couldn't believe it.

Still, as there was a risk of not being able to recover in battle, he bought a few potions and stored them in the Misty Ring.

Was it possible for him to equip accessories with continuous recovery effects such as the one he passed to Set? Thinking about it, Rei's joy ended prematurely as an item with a recovery effect didn't exist on the list in his mind.

Afterwards, Rei's break passed while reading the book he had bought in the bookstore, studying the materials from the Queen Ant and other monsters.

# Chapter 24

Early morning. As always, the guild was crowded with adventurers. One person in a robe, Rei, came in, accustomed to the scene.

By the way, because Set had still been sleeping when he headed to the guild, only Rei had gone to the guild.

Rei wasn't recognized by many people as it had only been a few days since he registered, with his low height and seemingly delicate build, several adventurers tried to mess with him. However, their cheeks cramped when the surrounding people told them about what had happened to the Claws of the Hawk and they pretended to have not seen him

About the time he was moving to the front of some adventurers to look at the F rank request board.....a loud voice echoed through the guild.

「Please listen, there is a recruitment for an emergency request! As for the contents of the quest, there is an Orc village about a days distance from Gimuru, the village must be annihilated. For the reward, 5 gold coins will be given before hand. Two platinum coins will be rewarded upon the success of the quest. Separate rewards will be given based on degree of contribution. Moreover, though the reward for the the right ear of an Orc is usually 3 silver coins, it will be changed to 5 this time. In addition, though Orcs are normally D rank monsters, they are treated as C rank when in a group. Only people who are judged to be capable are able to participate. Needless to say, the minimum requirement is the ability to defeat an Orc by themselves. The applicants will be judged in the meeting room on the second floor of the guild in an hour, after registering with a receptionist.」

It might have been a former adventurer. The voice of the man who was missing half his right ear resounded in every corner of the guild.

「How many Orcs!?!」

A man who was in front of the C rank request board asked loudly.

「Unknown. However, we are certain that there is a minimum of 50.」

50. As soon as the number was said, the surrounding adventurers became noisy.

「Hey, the lowest number is 50 Orcs.」

「Ah. There's no doubt that there will be a rare species or higher species leading. The possibility of Orc mages mixed in with the group is likely to be high.」

「.....What will you do?」

「It's going to be big. After all, it's two platinum coins with 5 gold coins just for participating. But, naturally, if we are generously rewarded, the danger will be accordingly. ....」

「I'm not going. My party was once partially destroyed by 3 Orcs.」

「I'm participating. The reward is huge. A village of Orcs a day from here, the damage will spread to Gimuru if nothing is done. 」

While listening to such talk, for the first time in a long while, Rei brought out the information about Orcs from Zepairu's knowledge.

『Orc』

The name of a generic demi-human monster with the face of a pig. It's height is the same as the average adult male. They can use swords and spears but prefer close combat with clubs, there are Orc mages and Orc archers that use magic and the bow, there is also a higher orc species with better abilities called an orc general. However, the number of higher ranked orc species is small compared with the normal orc population.

Though it's combat technology isn't high, it's strength is considerable and it fights with brute force.

The race of Orcs is basically male, females from other races are used to breed. At this time, mostly human women are used.

Horde, it might be a instinctual thing but they lived by grouping in tens or more.

However, it's not uncommon for a horde of 100 to appear and gather more and more if a rare species or higher species appears.

(There is indeed knowledge of Orcs. Well, it is a basic monster of a classic fantasy setting.)

Drawing from Zepairu's knowledge, a satisfied smile floated onto Rei's face as he found the information.

(Now then, what should I do.....well, I shouldn't have any problems participating. Anyway, the contribution to the guild should be great as it is an emergency request. Likewise, the reward is exceptional compared to other quests. It's also hard to find a quest that rank isn't a condition for participation. It's not a bad idea to improve my fame in case a high rank monster subjugation quest appears in future. My fighting power being known to a lot of people is a negative factor.....well, it's too late to keep it secret after fighting Goblin Drool. However, I should consider the annoying possibility of increased solicitation after this request has been completed.)

From the Lord to the Guild Master and from the Guild Master to Lenora who was an acquaintance. Because Rei didn't know that if he was tangled up with adventurers they were to be notified immediately, he was weighing up the merits and demerits of receiving this quest, and the merits clearly outweighed the demerits.

Giving a small nod, he went to see Lenora, the receptionist with the ponytail who was in charge when he registered and who he subsequently submitted requests to.

「Ah, good morning Rei. Do you have a quest? 」

With a smile, Lenora asked, Rei nodded and smiled. Though the receptionist who looked like she was from the cat family of beast people turned her gaze to Rei for a moment while processing the request forms of other adventurers, Rei didn't notice it.

「So, the quest is?」

「I would like to apply for the Orc quest from a little while ago.」

Orc subjugation. Lenora took a few seconds for the words to set in.

「So, Rei. I'll say this for now but although Orcs are D rank alone, when they group together they are C rank. As expected of rank G, I can't recommend you.」  
「The recruitment conditions of the request said that you need to have the strength to beat an Orc right?」

「That, well, that's right.....」

「Then I won't have any problems. Though it's only a bit, I have the ability to kill a Water Bear in the Forest of Magic.」

「Water Bear!?!」

Although Lenora almost involuntarily shouted that out, she shut her mouth immediately.

「The Forest of Magic.....why did you go to such a dangerous place. Do you mean that you went to the Forest of Magic instead of the guild?」

「No, ah, well, Because it's a long story, I'll tell you about it if I have the opportunity. So about the matter of the Orcs?」

「.....Well, even though there shouldn't be any problems if you have the ability to beat a Water Bear.....However, as Rei is a G rank, any mistakes you make will stand out if you participate in this quest. There will also be people who will pick a fight with you like the Claws of the Hawk.」

Though Lenora said so anxiously, a smile floated onto Rei's face.

「At that time, I'll have a match with a bet again.」

「.....Please stop it if possible.....」

To Rei's words, Lenora wrote Rei's name onto the documents in her hand while releasing a sigh of resignation.

「The reception has accepted you to the Orc subjugation quest. Please wait in the meeting room on the 2nd floor for now. A detailed explanation of the quest will be given there.」

Nodding to her words, he headed towards the stairs leading to the second floor of the guild.

The guild meeting room, unlike Japan though, there's no projector or black board. It was only a room with chairs placed disorderly around in the large space. As for the large table that was originally placed in the center of the meeting room, it had been moved to the corner.

Registration had already finished. About 20 adventurers had already gathered into the room.

They had probably formed parties, the people gathered in groups of 3-5, talking about how it was necessary to push forward the Orc subjugation. Rei

stepped inside to this.

While the other people were in several groups, a little boy dressed in robes walked in alone. Naturally, his figure was very noticeable and gathered all the gazes of those who were in the room.

Gata~! Among the people looking at him, several people abruptly stepped back, out of their chair, the sound echoing into the meeting room.

「Oi, what's wrong?」

「.....No, nothing at all.」

「Did something happen with that fellow? You could tell us the story.」

「Stop it! Don't mess with that guy!」

The party near the window had such a conversation. When Rei entered the meeting room, most of the people found it amusing and talked about it to their friends. All except one person. That is, a member that could use magic.

Though Rei didn't understand, because he only specialized in fire magic, there are some magicians who could sense the magic power in other people. And that magician who had that ability sensed a magic power that could be called overwhelming present in Rei's body.

(.....What? Is there someone who noticed the value of the Dragon Robe?)

Because didn't know of that ability, he misunderstood and thought that someone noticed the value of the Dragon Robe he was wearing and thought that they were surprised to see it.

Because he thought that it would have been distracting if he took the Death Scythe into the meeting room, he stored it inside the Misty Ring before entering the guild meeting room.

(Well, okay. I assume that we have to wait until the meeting starts)

Muttering to himself, he sat down in a vacant chair in the corner of the room and observed the other adventurers.

「Oi, that's right.」

「Ah. Is it the guy that defeated the Claws of the Hawk? I also heard it today.」

「But, if that's true, isn't he still G rank? Isn't it too soon for Orc subjugation?」

「Well, if he can knock down Vargas head on, then I don't think you need to worry. If you only judge combat power, he may be rank C. ....So a muscle brain.」

「Though he may be a combat force.....I don't want him to slow us down.」

「Come to think of it, the Claws of the Hawk? Aren't those guys participating in the Orc subjugation. 」

「I understand that they had all their weapons and cash taken away when they lost to that kid and they have debt with the guild so they have no time.」

「They should participate in the Orc subjugation quest if they have debt. They'd certainly be able to earn money.」

「As I said, their weapons were taken away. They're using spare weapons at the moment. With such weapons, do you think they can fight an orc, let alone a horde led by a rare species or higher species?」

「.....Well, I more or less understand.」

An adventurer group of 4 men were talking in low voices a little distance from Rei and he overheard them

(Debt.....looks that arrogant person has to pay. Well, the guild probably has some ideas.)

Recalling the face of Vargas for a moment, he erased it from his mind the next moment and observed the state of the other adventurers.

As expected, as all the adventurers gathered in the room were here for the Orc subjugation, there was quite intense atmosphere. The male to female ratio was roughly 7:3, the number of women wasn't as small as Rei thought.

And maybe there were adventurers also interested in Rei, there were a lot people frequently glancing at Rei.

Though they were interested, it was hard to talk to Rei as he gave off an atmosphere that kept people away. Meanwhile, several adventurers entered into the meeting room which had a somewhat uncomfortable atmosphere.

When their figures were seen, the noise it created was incomparable to when Ray entered.

Rei and the other adventurers attentions were directed to a group of 3 adventurers who just entered.



The first person to catch everyone's eyes was the man at the front. He was in his late 30's to early 40's. He had green hair and glanced around at the adventurers in the meeting room with a smile of a mischievous boy, not matching his age. It might be best expressed as a mischievous boy who grew up to an adult. He was covered in muscles, and it felt that he had a considerable weight although his height was that of an average adult man. He carried a huge battle axe on his shoulder, it seemed to be his weapon. He seemed to be the same as Varags in regards to his battle axe weapon. If you compared Vargas to a Goblin, then this guy's atmosphere could be expressed as a cyclops. Moreover, the battle axe on his back had a charm that attracted glances, even though Rei wasn't able to feel magic power, even he expected that it was a magic item.

Behind the man was a female adventurer in her mid 30's. Looking at the cane in her hand, she was probably a magician. Maybe to make it easy to move, her blue hair was cut around her shoulders. As soon as the woman adventurer came into the room, she reflexively looked at Rei and unintentionally pulled back when she saw his magic power.

The last of the three, who caught the woman adventurer, was a young man. There wasn't much of a age difference between the first two, so it seemed. He hung a sword in his sheath at his waist. Maybe it's purpose was for light movement, he wore a leather armour that seemed to be made from the skin of some sort of monster.

With pale blue hair, his features and face looked similar enough to the first two that he was probably related to them. Looking in the direction the woman was looking at, after leaving the woman to the other man, he rudely stormed up to Rei and opened his mouth after stopping in front of Rei.

「Oi, you. What did you do to my mother!?!」

He grabbed Rei, who was sitting down, and dragged him up.

This was the first contact Rei had with the famous A rank party in Gimuru, Axe of the Thunder God.

# Chapter 25

While looking at the face of the young man who grabbed him.....Rei looked back at him with expressionless eyes while watching him.

Maybe he didn't like that, the young man yelled at Rei with a voice louder than before.

「Answer me. I asked you what did you do to my mother.」

「.....Let go.」

Rei said unpleasantly while frowning his eyebrows.

That was natural. Rei himself couldn't recall getting mixed up with them at all.

「Just answer. If that's your attitude, should I respond the same way? .....This is your last chance. Answer me.」

「.....」

Rei judged that talking anymore would be useless. He grabbed the wrist of the young man that grabbed him in silence.

The moment he was going to crush the bone in that person's wrist.

「Rhodes, let go. The boy genuinely didn't do anything to me. I was only surprised when I looked at the boy.」

A cane was placed between the faces of Rei and the young man, Rhodes,.

「But mum! It's not normal for mum to back away for no reason! I'm sure this guy did something to you.」

To the woman who spoke those words, Rhodes argued back vehemently. However, the woman spat out a sigh and smacked the cane against Rhode's head.

Bogu~! When the sound of a blunt weapon hitting flesh echoed into the surroundings, the adventurers near Rei involuntarily winced as they imagined the pain.

「Gah~!」

As a result, Rhodes was squatting on the floor while holding his head, ignoring that, the woman lowered her head to Rei.

「I'm sorry boy. My son had been rude. Please forgive me.」  
「.....」

Rei returned his gaze in silence, the woman lifted up Rhodes, who was crouched on the ground, and forcibly made him bow his head.

「I understand. Rhodes will reflect on this and won't be rude again. I'm happy if the situation can be cooled down. Of course, I'm not saying this isn't unconditional. If you need something, the A rank party Axe of the Thunder God promises to lend our power.」

At A rank group, Rei reacted with a twitch.

As Rei hoped to battle more powerful monsters by increasing his guild rank as soon as possible, there was no loss to form a connection with an A rank party in advance. Rei judged so and gave a small nod.

「There was no harm done. I'll accept the help from your A rank party.」

Listening to Rei's words, the woman gave a sigh of relief.

(That moment, this boy was going to crush Rhode's wrist, no mistake. This ridiculous magic power. I should say that we were saved that we don't have to fight such a person.)

Muttering in her mind, she opened her mouth to speak to Rei again.

「I'm sorry, I still haven't introduced myself. I'm Min. I'm the mother of this foolish son who quarreled with you.」  
「Mum!」

Ignoring Rhode's words, she turned his gaze to the man who was was watching the state of the 3 with interest.

「Although it's regretful, that is my husband, Elk, who is also the leader of the Axe of the Thunder God.」

Probably hearing himself introduced. The man named Elk approached the three with a smile on his mouth.

「Oh, it was my son's mistake to quarrel with you. Though it seems my wife has introduced me, I'm Elk. Well, my regards.」

With that, Elk gave a hearty laugh. Seeing the situation, Rei gave a light sigh, and opened his mouth.

「Rei.」

「So, is that it? There has to be something more, isn't there? What's your favourite food and type of girl?」

「Elk, you should keep quiet.」

After Elk heard Min's voice, he fell silent reluctantly. Even if it was only by a bit, Rei noted in his mind that Min seemed to have the most influence in the group.

「We've been working as adventurers for a long time in this city of Gimuru, Rei was it? However, I don't recall seeing your face, did you come to this city recently?」

「That's right. It's only been a few days since I registered with the guild.」

The first person to react to those words was neither Min, who was talking, or Elk, who was behind Min. It was Rhodes, who turned his gaze from Min to Rei suspiciously.

「Ha!? You, do you even understand what the adventurers are gathered here for!?」

「The Orc subjugation?」

Though Rei lightly replied, maybe Rhodes felt that he was being looked down on. Rhodes scowled at Rei with a red-hot face.

But, at that moment, the cane in Min's hand was swung down to the back of his head again, a loud smack was heard.

「Gah! Mum. Don't hit my head so hard that it makes a pon~ sound. I mean, that cane is a magic assistance item not a club.」

「Shut up, don't talk while I'm speaking without my permission. 」

「But!」

When Rhodes was just about to argue further, the man that had shouted out about the urgent quest entered the room.

Min, who might have judged that it was time, pulled her husband and son and sat down in the chairs near to Rei.

「Everyone, thanks for gathering. The number of people is.....」

Saying so, the man looked around the meeting room.

「30 people or so.」

There were only about 20 people when Rei came into the meeting room but a few more people seemed to have come while talking with Rhodes, Min and Elk.

After confirming that, he started to speak.

「I'm Hobbes and I'm responsible for this current quest. The rough contents of the quest were as said before, it is to subjugate Orcs. A 5 gold coin reward will be given as an advance. 2 platinum coins will be given at the end of the request. In addition, you will be given bonuses based on your contribution level. At the same time, the right ears, which are the proof of subjugation, are worth 5 silver coins for the participants of the mission instead of the normal 3 silver coins. Everyone good so far?」

Everyone nodded to Hobbes' words.

「The place where the Orc have made a village is about a day's distance from Gimuru. There are at least 50 Orcs. ....All good?! The minimum number is 50. Naturally, assume that there will be more than that. Moreover, make no mistake, there will be a rare species or higher rank species leading. The departure time is today, in the afternoon. When ready, gather in front of the gate. It will be an overnight journey and will arrive in the vicinity of the village tomorrow afternoon. We will then take a break until night and will make a night attack on the village at midnight. Are there any questions?」

When asked if there were any questions, one adventurer asked.

「Is the existence of Orc mages confirmed?」

「It hasn't been confirmed but you better expect them.」

「What is the contribution level to the guild when this quest is completed?」

「Naturally I will consider it when you go up a rank. However, its limited to people who played an active part. It's not just participating in this quest.」

「Has the guild provided a wagon for transport to the village?」

「Ah. Yes, however, you can provide your own, I don't mind. In that case, goods will be loaded in the empty space.」

「Are the supplies given by the guild?」

「That's right. However, we do not mind if wish to prepare things yourself.」

「The chain of command?」

「For the commander, I am in charge.」

Hobbes answered the questions from the adventurers without pausing.

Rei, who heard the questions, raised his hand.

「I think I can help with the transportation of supplies, but will it add to the contribution points?」

「Helping with the transportation of the slides? By what means?」

To the words of Hobbes, Rei showed the Misty Ring on his right hand.

「This Misty Ring is a kind of item box. There won't be any problem with the transportation of goods with this.」

While saying so, he took out a potion from the Misty Ring and stored it back into the Misty Ring after that.

「An item box.....is it real!?」

「This is the first time I've seen one.」

「We...I mean, usually, is it even possible to such an expensive magic item in our lifetime? 」

The people in the conference room seemed to know about the dispute between Rei and the Claws of the Hawk, however, it seems that the number of people who knew that the item box was used in the bet was fewer.

As a result, among the people who knew, several of them observed Rei with a sharp glance.

Intentionally pretending not to notice the gazes, Rei directed his sight to Hobbes.

「.....All right. If you help the guild transport goods using the item box, you will get credit for it.」

Hobbes answered another detailed question.

「Okay, any more questions.....no? Then at the end please tell me what skills you have. Naturally I don't mind if you wish to conceal it. We'll start from those near the door.」

Hearing his words, a group of 4 adventurers went ahead and described their skills to Hobbes.

The guild wanted to know the skills of the adventurers for the quest, but outside of the request, they probably didn't want to tell their skills to other adventurers, who could potentially be their rivals. In that way, Hobbes was generous and said that they could hide their skills if they didn't want it to be known.

(In the end, I'm the only solo person.)

He murmured in his mind while looking at the state of the surroundings. All people except Rei was a member of a party, Rei was the only person in the room by himself.

「Rei, may I call you that?」

Min called out to Rei, who was observing the surroundings. Rei nodded to those words.

「That, if it's possible, could you show me the item box for future reference? Of course, because you are showing such a valuable item, we will repay you correspondingly later.」

「I don't mind, the Misty Ring can't be used by anyone other than me.」

「Ah, that's still okay. Certainly, by all means.」

He pushed the bracelet off his arm, seemingly with brute force.

「Heeh, this.....indeed, I can certainly feel a strong magic power.」

Next to Min, who was admiring it, Rhodes was looking at Rei suspiciously.

「Fun~, are you strong just because you rely on a magic and not because of your ability? If so, even I.....gah!」

Before his words could finish, Elk's fist was swung down on his head.

「What, Dad.....」

「You, getting sulky just because Min took an interest in someone else.」

「Dad, It's not really!?!」

「It's obvious if look at it from the sides. Seriously. ....Sorry Rei. As you can see, although this guy is older than you, he can't seem to part from his mother.」

To Elk's words, Rei turned his eyes to Min, who was eagerly examining the Misty Ring. The calmness from when they first met had completely disappeared, Min had the appearance of sparkling eyes.

「Don't worry. I don't mind his mother complex.」

「Mother complex?」

「Ah. Basically a term for a guy that loves their mum.」

「Kuku~, I understand. Well, Rhodes certainly has a mother complex.」

「Dad! You stop it too. You're speaking so insolently to a C rank like me even though you just registered with the guild.」

And Elk's fist was swung down on Rhodes head again, making him crouch on the floor.

「Seriously, don't get so agitated just because it hit the mark.」

「Oh, I'm not really.....」

Though Rhodes started to speak while holding his head, the loud voice of Hobbes sounded through the meeting room.

「Next, you with the item box!」

To that voice, Rei looked around, the number of people in the meeting room had already dropped to half. After finishing the conversation with Hobbes, they had already begun preparing for departure.

「Um, sorry. It's useful.」

Receiving the Misty Ring from Min, he put it back onto his right arm and went to Hobbes, past Rhodes who wanted to say something while holding his head.

「Your name?」

「Rei.」

「Rank?」

「G rank.」

As soon as Rei told his rank, Hobbes frowned.



「You know that the minimum requirements of this quest is to be able to beat an Orc right?」

「Ah. I'm still G rank because I only registered with the guild a few days ago, I have the ability to beat a Water Bear.」

「.....What?」

「If you want, you can ask the guild staff Gran if there is any unease, you should be able to understand if he explains it.」

「.....I understand. I check with Gran later, in the end, it's your own responsibility to accept the request. If you don't have the power, you can't complain, okay?」

Rei gave a small nod to Hobbes' words.

「.....All right. So, what are you good at?」

「Fire magic and close combat. Other than that, I can also tame monsters.」

Rei plainly stated his abilities. Hobbes took notes of something on to the paper in his hand as he heard it.

「If you can use magic and close combat, can I classify you as a Magic Swordsman?」

「That is right. But I'm more of a Magic Warrior than a Magic Swordsman. 」

「.....The difference?」

To the words of Hobbes, he took out the Death Scythe from the Misty Ring.

The length of the handle was over 2m, the blade of the Death Scythe was over 1m. Hobbes, who saw the huge weapon appear from nowhere, had his eyes grow wide.

The few people who were still in the meeting room were dumbfounded by the scythe which suddenly appeared.

「As you see, my weapon isn't something that can really be called a sword.」

「.....I understand. With that, may I expect you to transport the supplies?」

「Ah. No problem. I want to raise my guild rank as soon as possible.」

「Then after this, please come to the guild before noon after you're ready. I'll need you to collect the supplies.」

He nodded at Hobbes' words while patting the Misty Ring.

「By the way, may I take a tamed monster with me?」

「Ah, there are no problems at all. An increase in combat power is always welcome. However, what I don't want is injuries to other adventurers.」

「Because Set is clever, if he isn't messed with, he won't hurt others.」

「Right, you may go. Don't forget to come before noon.」

Nodding to Hobbes' words, Rei directly left the meeting room.

[

## Chapter 26

「 Ah, Rei, how was the request? 」

Leaving the meeting room, the receptionist Lenora called out when he returned to the first floor of the guild. As there was no reason to ignore her as she had helped him several times, Rei stepped towards the counter.

「 Ahh, no problems. I've successfully received the quest. 」

「 Is that so? But the enemy are Orcs, and I heard that there are a considerable number. Please be careful. It would be troubling if a promising rookie disappeared from the guild. 」

As Lenora spoke, Rei saw worried eyes and an anxious look.

「 That's right. Because you're still a rookie Rei, if it gets difficult, leave it to the higher ranked people and think of surviving first. 」

The voice that was suddenly heard came from next to Lenora, it was a receptionist from the cat beast people. Because he had not talked with that person at all until now, Rei gave a questioning look.

「 Ah, I'm sorry. I haven't introduced myself yet. I'm Kenny. A close friend of Lenora. Nice to meet you, Rei. 」

「 A, Ah. I'll be counting on you. 」

Though it was certainly his first meeting with Kenny, she stretched out her hand with plain goodwill. Rei shook her hand while being slightly puzzled.

「 Hey, Kenny. 」

「 What? The busy morning time has finished, isn't this okay? 」

Though Rei turned his view to the area around request boards at Kenny's words, there certainly were few people around the request boards.

Though there were several adventurers eating breakfast before starting work, there weren't any people drinking.

「 Anyway Rei. Because this Orc subjugation request will be rather dangerous, please take care. 」

「Ahh, I'll make sure. Well, I'll have to go soon as there are a lot of thing I have to prepare.」

「Ah, okay. Take care Rei.」

「Rei, if you don't get hurt this big sister will praise you when you come back.」

Lenora waved her hand lightly as Kenny saw Rei off with a pose that boasted her big breasts.

Everyone who was still in the guild looked at him with jealous eyes while looking at the appearance of the receptionists who were their idols. Rei seemed not to notice it as he walked out of the guild.

「Ara, welcome back. That was fast. Is it a day off today?」

When he returned to the Dusk Wheat, he bumped into Lana at the entrance. With her stout build, she was holding a large amount of ingredients, possibly the ingredients for tonight's dinner.

「Good timing. I'm going to be absent from here for a few days.」

「Yes, I understand. However, if your luggage is left in your room for longer than the time you payed for, it will be kept here. It will be disposed of if you don't come back within 3 months, is that okay?」

「Ah, I don't mind. Naturally, I'll be taking Set of course.」

「I understand. When will you be departing?」

「About noon.」

「Then, please come to the dining room before leaving. A food box will be prepared.」

Shortly after saying that, Lana disappeared towards the dining room. Maybe she was busy with the preparation of lunch and dinner.

Rei, who saw her go, returned to his room, took off the Shoes of Sleipnir and the Dragon Robe and lay on the bed.

Because all his basic luggage was stored in the Misty Ring, the only personal belongings he had in the room were a change of clothes and some coins.

(Orc horde. It's highly likely that its led by a rare species or higher species, is it.)

Rare species and higher species. The 2 are clearly different. For instance, the

rare species goblin that Rei had defeated. That was a mutation of a goblin. However, for the higher species of goblin, a goblin that was born to the world as a greater existence, they were High Goblins.

(Anyway, with the Orc's high rank, I expect it will be easier to acquire skills. However, I'd better not attract too much attention to the peculiarity of Set and the Death Scythe.)

Currently, Rei was already noticeable with his ability, evil looking weapon and the like. In addition, because the existence of the Misty Ring was announced in front of so many people, it would be impossible to avoid people with underlying motives, they would come sooner or later. In fact, there were several people who sent sharp glances when the Misty Ring was shown in the conference room. As well as that, a Griffon that could use Water Ball and Fire Breath and the Death Scythe that could corrode the enemies equipment, when these become public knowledge.....

(No, wait. Though there's no way to hide Set's Water Ball and Fire Breath, I may be able to deceive them by saying the corrosion is my magi.....maybe? No, well, anyway, it's best if I can prevent the truth from being known.)

The skill of the Death Scythe that could corrode the enemies metallic equipment was, if anything, more effective against human opponents than monsters.

Though it's natural if you think about it. Their claws and horns and parts of the body like their fangs and tails were the weapons of monster, for humans, it was the sword and shield, a human's fighting power drops drastically without weapons or armour. And considering that most of those arms are made of metal, you could say that the corrosion skill was its natural enemy.

(Set can fight with only his basic ability as a griffon. And I can conceal the corrosion ability as much as possible.....or something like that. But, according to Zepairu's knowledge, there are a lot of Orcs that use weapons, I can't do much but adapt to the situation.)

Adapting to the situation.....something like that, Rei judged so and haphazardly stood up from the bed and started preparing for his departure.

Well, the things he needed to prepare was only the Dragon Robe and Shoes of

Sleipnir that he had taken off before lying on the bed.

Although it was still early in the day, he judged that it was a good time to eat lunch in the dining room as he had promised Hobbes to go to the guild before noon.

「Ah, customer. Yes, this. Please eat it for dinner tonight.」

As soon as he entered the dining room, he was passed a food box containing plenty of sandwiches.

There was a large amount compared with a normal food box, it was heavy. Surprised by the unexpected weight, he instinctively asked.

「It seems like a lot more than usual?」

「That is so. Although you will only be absent for a few days, you can receive the 10 days worth you rented. Um, today's lunch has been deducted from that. Please sit, food will be brought immediately.」

Thus, he ate lunch in the Dusk Wheat. Satisfied with the plentiful sandwiches for lunch, he went to the stables.

「Gururu~」

Set gave a joyful cry when he saw Rei come in.

The other horses in the stables began to fidget restlessly.

Set was a creature with an overwhelming status. However, though he was in the stable, they would feel safe when he was asleep, they remembered their fear again when Set woke up as Rei walked in.

Rei took Set out of the stables while smiling wryly at the situation.

「Set, we'll be going for overnight expedition for the Orc subjugation.」

「Guru~」

I understand, Set gave a short cry.

「However, this time it isn't just Set and I. In total, there will be a few dozen people. Therefore, I don't want any of your peculiarities known to anyone aside from me. It would be troublesome if you got mixed up with some strange people right? At any rate, outside the city, there will be various problems in

the event you kill someone. Therefore, the use of Water Ball and Fire Breath is restricted while killing Orcs. Of course, you may use it if you judge it to be a life or death crisis.」

「Guru～」

Reluctantly, Set agreed. Rei opened his mouth to speak while scratching and patting Set's head.

「I'll have to say this instead, there is likely to be a considerable number of Orcs. Because there seems to be a rare species or high ranking species like the one from the Goblin subjugation, magic stones are expected. Is Set interested in the meat from the Orcs?」

「Gurururururu～!」

Maybe he recovered his mood with those words, Set gave a happy cry.

While smiling wryly at how the mood was easily restored by food, he went to the Adventurers Guild at once.

As always passersby in the streets were surprised or scared by Set. Buying suitable food from stalls, they ate even though they just had lunch, the extra's were stored into the Misty Ring.

While doing that, he walked along the road to the Adventurers Guild ahead. Without Rei saying anything, Set moved to the carriage waiting area and flopped down to resting.

After lightly patting Set's head, Rei entered the guild.

Inside the guild, just before noon, there were a bit less than 10 adventurers sitting at the bar eating lunch. However, as Rei entered the guild and walked to the counter, a few of them observed Rei while eating their meal.

(.....Is someone watching me?)

Rei felt people looking at him as he approached the counter. In this place, the reason for this attention was probably a member of the Orc subjugation force that saw the Misty Ring.

(Relaxedly travelling to the Orc village doesn't seem to be possible after all. However, well.....)

A faint smile floated onto his mouth.

(I'll deal with it if they attack)

「Rei?」

To Lenora at the counter, who caught sight of him and called out, Rei removed his smile.

「Ah, Rei. What's wrong? Did you forget something?」

Kenny, who was next to Lenora, also asked.

Because it was a bit before noon, they had some spare time. There were only a few people around the request boards when he looked around briefly, most of the staff were also out, only a few were at the counters.

「Not at all, I was told by a guild staff called Hobbes to come before noon. There seems to be very few people though?」

For a moment, after saying so, he directed his eyes to behind the counters.

「That's because a considerable number of people were pulled over for the preparation of goods and carriages for the Orc subjugation Rei is participating in.」

「About that, did you say Hobbes? Does that mean Rei is not going to the Orc subjugation quest?」

He shook his head to Kenny's somewhat hopeful words.

「No, it's about the transportation of goods.」

「Transportation of goods? Why were you called for that Rei?」

「Hey, Kenny! Stop rushing into things!」

Lenora chided Kenny when she asked Rei.

When the description of the Orc subjugation quest was explained, adventurers didn't want to reveal their abilities to others. The other adventurers were still rivals although companions.....So, a usual adventurer would have judged that. But, however.

「Ah, it's because I have an item box.」

Without any common sense, Rei answered plainly.



That said, when he got into the dispute with the Claws of the Hawk, he had majestically shown the Misty Ring. Since the dispute with the Claws of the Hawk had happened right in front of the Adventurers Guild, he naturally thought they knew the information. He had also demonstrated it at the meeting for the Orc subjugation.

But what if by chance, the two, Lenora and Kenny, did not have the information that he had an item box? They looked at him with startled eyes.

「Eh? Rei san has an item box?」

「Uwa~, Rei kun is amazing. Hey, hey, let us take a quick look.....」

「You came.」

A low voice interrupted Kenny's excited voice. But, it wasn't possible to miss his voice. It was a voice with a great presence.

「Ah, Hobbes.」

「Ah, thanks for your good work.」

Lenora and Kenny, quieted down and gave a small bow when they noticed him.

Hobbes turned his gaze from the two people to Rei without saying anything.

「Over here, follow me. The supplies are ready.」

After saying that, he went past the counter towards the back entrance of the guild.

「Then, see you soon.」

「I'll take care to come back.」

Nodding after saying farewell to Lenora and Kenny, he went after Hobbes. By the way, the glances from the bar that had persistently occurring during the conversation with Lenora vanished as soon as Hobbes appeared.

「These are the goods you need to carry.」

To Hobbes words, Rei turned his eyes to the mountain of goods in front of his eyes.

Aside from things like potions and mana potions, there were also medicines like antidotes and paralysis removal medications. There were also preserved

food such as dried meat, dried fruit and biscuits. In addition to tents, there were also a large amount of various goods necessary for the subjugation. Though it was only a days distance from Gimuru for the Orc subjugation, it was one day to travel and one day to subdue, they couldn't return immediately. In total they needed 3 days to go and return. And when you thought of the extra amount needed for unexpected situations, the quantity came to a small mountain.

Still, this amount was possible to move as it was only a day's distance, if it was a further place, the amount would have more than doubled. After all, you need enough food to serve 30 people.

「Can you carry it?」

「No Problem」

Giving a small nod to Hobbes' words, Rei stored the goods one by one into the Misty Ring by touching the mountain of goods.

Hobbes looked at the situation impressed.

The goods were all stored within 10 minutes, according to Hobbes' instructions, several goods were then repeatedly taken out of the Misty Ring and stored back.

「Right, I'll leave the goods to you. Also, you were by yourself. Until we at least reach the Orc village, I would request that you act with the party Axe of the Thunder God. It won't be funny if we can't access the goods on the way to the Orc village if you die.」

「I understand.」

「So, it will soon be time for the members to gather at the main gate. Because I still have some business, you go ahead.」

Nodding to Hobbes' words, he left.

(Finally it's the Orc subjugation. Now then, what kind of magic stone will I get. Others likely have the same aim as me, it's unlikely to be boring.)

# Chapter 27

Rei, who had stored away various supplies necessary for the Orc subjugation into the Misty Ring, left Hobbes, who still had errands to run and exited the guild through the back door.

「Gururu～」

Set noticed Rei and gave a happy cry, the two of them headed to the city of Gimuru's main gate.

「Oh, do you have a quest today?」

Ranga came out and called out to Rei and Set familiarly. The most of the guards were still frightened by Set, so though he was the captain.....no, because he was the captain, Ranga seemed to have become in charge of Rei and Set

Well, though that being said, a big reason was because he had been told to look out for Rei by Margrave Rowlocks.

Removing his guild card from the Misty Ring, Rei spoke while handing over Set's Necklace of Subservient Monster.

「It is a quest, speaking of which, have you heard about the Orcs building a village?」

Ranga twitched as he replied.

「Of course I've heard it.....even if you say you're strong, you're still G rank? Were you even able to accept the request?」

「It's a urgent request this time, if you have the strength to take down an Orc, rank doesn't matter.」

「.....I see. Well, if you can defeat a Water Bear, then you don't have any problems with strength.」

「That's right. So, the reason I'm here is because the subjugation force agreed to meet at the main gate in the afternoon. I'm a bit early at the moment.」

「Guru～」

Not yet? Rei patted Set's head while receiving the guild card back from

Ranga.

「Sorry that took up some time. Though you have Set with you, please take care.」

Nodding to Ranga's words, Rei moved to a grassy place a little distance from the main gate with Set.

「Guru~」

As Set lay down comfortably in the grassy field, Rei leaned against him. Though the members originally should have waited beside the gate, he had only been at Gimuru for a few days. Because there were still people who didn't know the existence of Set, Rei did so in consideration of not disturbing the flow of people in and out of the city.

Set as well, rather than being in the city, seemed to enjoy basking in the sunlight on a grassy plain, in a happy mood, he began to give a cat like purr.

Though Rei in his original body would have likely received heat stroke by staying under the summer sun for so long, it was because his physical ability was different, because the Dragon Robe functioned as a simple air conditioner, he could lean against Set with a cool face.

「.....Rei-kun, is it?」

Leaving precaution of the surroundings to Set, he suddenly noticed his name being called while enjoying he was enjoying his sleep and dozing off, Rei's consciousness rapidly awoke.

Opening his eyes, a woman in her thirties was in front of him, she wore a robe and had a sturdy cane. Next to her, a middle aged man watched with an interesting face while the figure of a boy around Rei's age had his face harden as if seeing something he couldn't believe.

It was the three members of the A rank party Axe of the Thunder God, Elk, Min and Rhodes.

「Is it about time?」

「Not yet, but also .....that, may I ask you something?」

While generally guessing what was about to be asked, Rei nodded to Min's

words.

「I don't think there's a mistake but you're leaning on a Griffon. ....Why?」

Even if you say they were members of the Axe of the Thunder God, they still had some fear towards the Griffon, an A rank monster. Though Min timidly asked, Rei's answer was extremely short.

「It's because I tamed it.」

「Do-Don't joke around! You're a G rank adventurer but the Griffon.....-!?」

Although it was Rhode who retorted and shouted frankly at Rei's words, he became lost for words when Set turned his head round and gave a deep cry.

This couldn't be helped. Even if you say he belonged to an A ranked party, Rhodes himself was only an adventurer of the C rank. Taking notice of the A rank Griffon, he was instinctively reminded of the difference in status between them.

「Hey, settle down Set.」

While smiling wryly at Rhodes appearance, Rei calmed Set down.

「Guru~」

While scratching Set's head as usual with a kori~kori~ sound, he said to Rhodes.

「I'll say this for now, Set isn't hostile to others. However, if the other party wants to harm me, that's different.」

「.....」

To those words, Rhodes still felt that Set might growl at him and wasn't able to say anything as his mouth opened and closed with a paku~ paku~ sound.

「Gahahahahaha. This is great, boy. Though I've seen monster tamers, this is the first time I've seen someone tame a Griffon. Hey, may I touch it?」

「Dad!」

This might be the difference between an A rank and C rank. Or, it could be just the difference in experience.

「Set, what will you do? That man would like to touch you.」

「Guru~.....」

Set stared at Rhodes, Elk and Min in order. After a few seconds, he gave a short bark and gave his tail a short wave.

「He says you can.」

「I see. Sorry about this.」

There was a high degree of risk in touching a A rank monster, however, Elk didn't have a strained appearance and smiled as he reached out his hand. His hand touched Set's body, which Rei was leaning against.....

「Oh! What, this smooth texture. This is the first time I've seen a griffon, it's fur has such a smooth touch.」

The best way to describe Set's fur would be that it had a smooth texture like silk.

While patting the smooth fur, with a satisfied mind, Elk nodded.

「Hey, Rei. Did you say Set? It could be possible with this quality to make clothes with this fur for royalty you know?」

「Now then, what to do about it. I don't mind it as there wasn't such an intention.....」

「.....Rei-kun, may I pat it too?」

Unable to hold her curiosity at Elk's words, Min also asked.

When Rei looked at Set, he shook his tail in the same way as with Elk.

「He doesn't mind.」

「I see, then at once. ....Elk, move away a little bit. Let me feel the smooth touch.」

「Mum! It's dangerous to approach a Griffon!」

Though Rhodes tried to stop her, of course, it wasn't possible to stop Min, whose eyes were shining with curiosity.

「Hou~, hou~, hou~, hou~.....the touch is certainly smooth. Enough that I want to touch it forever.」

「I know right? Well, it's our lucky day today to touch a Griffon without worrying about being attacked.」

「That's right, it's as Elk said. A rank monster Griffon, it's a priceless experience to touch it's body.」

While seeing two people patting his body in such a way, after turning and glancing at Rhodes with sharp eyes, Set closed his eyes.

「Kukuku~. It doesn't like you, Rhodes.」

Elk saw the situation and called out to Rhodes while smiling as he and Min stroked Set's body.

「Beh, I don't care even if I'm disliked by a Griffon.」

No treatment, Elk let out a sigh. In that state, Rei called out to Elk.

「I was told by Hobbes to act together with you until we reach the Orc village. Please take care of me.」

「Huh!? Why do we need to take care of a rank G all the way!?!」

To Rei's words, Rhodes was naturally the first to react, but it was Elk rather than Rei who interjected.

「That's a matter of course. Ah, of course I don't mind.」

「Dad!」

To Rhodes who argued vehemently, Elk let out an amazed sigh.

「Listen up. Recall the meeting that took place this morning? Rei was entrusted with the transport of goods for use this time in the Orc subjugation quest.」

「Ah. I know it because I heard it as well.」

「Well then, what do you think will happen if Rei gets taken out by a Orc or another monster?」

「That is.....ah.....」

「Have you finally realised? That is right, all the supplies and equipment are gone if Rei dies. Well, here's the problem. What are we?」

「.....A rank party, Axe of the Thunder God.」

「That's right. Furthermore, we are the only A rank party participating in the Orc subjugation this time.」

Rank A. Though it is one rank below the guild's S rank, because only 3 S rank

people existed in the world, every adventurer knows that A rank is only just below them. And as S ranks are scarce with only 3 in existence, to general adventurers, they consider people of A rank to be substantially better than themselves.

And the Axe of the Thunder God was a party with 2 such A rank adventurers. Their ability and track record in Gimuru were considered top class talent by the guild, which wasn't a mistake.

「We, who are considered to be the largest combat force, are accompanying Rei, who is carrying the subjugation forces' supplies, as bodyguards. ....Is there anything strange?」

「I certainly understand the importance of the supplies. However, isn't it okay even if we don't guard this guy? Because even B or C rank parties could act as escorts.」

Rhodes became obstinate and objected to Elk.

(Shit, mum and dad should take care with a guy like that. An item box and a Griffon, he's relying on his monster and magic item and not his own power. As for the need to guard him in particular.....)

While thinking so in his mind, he directed his gaze to Elk.

His antipathy to Rei, although the person in question didn't know, was because of his mother, as Rei had said.

Of course, his father, Elk, who was the leader of the Axe of the Thunder God, naturally noticed this.

「Listen up. This is my decision as leader of Axe of the Thunder God. There will be no objections, you are not allowed to skimp on the escort either.」

「.....Okay.」

To Elk's unusually strong order, Rhodes reluctantly nodded in the end.

(Seriously, did we spoil this fellow too much? Even if his ability is C rank..... he has the character of sticking to his mother. It will be good if he can receive some influence from Rei in this quest if possible.)

Unlike Min, Elk couldn't detect magic power. However, as an A rank



adventurer, he still vaguely guessed Rei's ability and potential. By talking, Elk was able to generally grasp his character. Though Rei hid a vast power in his body, he wasn't a bad person. ....Moreover, when he heard what happened to the Claws of the Hawk, he couldn't help but have a wry smile.

For Elk, he didn't like the way the Claws of the Hawk picked a fight with a rookie to make him do their chores. ....While knowing that there is some effect on the development of a rookie, he could never come to like it. Therefore, when he collected information on Rei after the Orc subjugation meeting, he didn't feel irked hearing about Rei's trouble with the Claws of the Hawk. Rather, he did well! He cheered and applauded.

While watching Elk worry about his son's behavior, Rei turned his gaze to the main gate while leaning on Set.

The people from the parties that he had seen in the meeting in the morning were gathered. While most of them were talking, they frequently turned their eyes to Rei. Rather than Elk or Axe of the Thunder God.....most were looking at the Griffon, Set. It wasn't unreasonable as while people had heard information about Rei from inside the guild, it was still the first time they had ever seen a genuine Griffon.

(But.....the eyes observing me and not Set are the same as before)

Those eyes had followed him ever since he showed off the Misty Ring in the meeting room. They were eyes he felt all the time except when he was in the Dusk Wheat inn.

For the people sending glances, they likely prioritized obtaining the Misty Ring over the Orc subjugation, Rei had a wry smile as he had a feeling in his mind that a fight would come sooner or later.

「Oh, he came.」

At Elk's murmur, Rei turned his gaze to the main gate again.

From that place, around 8 wagons came from the city. The figure of Hobbes could be seen in addition to the coachman of the first horse drawn wagon.

「People who have received the Orc subjugation quest, each party must gather up and ride on a wagon. In addition, Rei and Axe of the Thunder God will

be in the center wagon with me. Do you all understand?」

To the adventurers gathered who began to talk, Elk then asked.

「Ah. The purpose is to reduce the possibility of losing the goods?」

Elk said in reply to Hobbes' words.

Elk headed to the horse drawn wagon. Min and Rhodes subsequently followed. Rei and Set also headed for the wagon.

Adventurers who had gathered near the main gate began boarding the wagons they decided on hastily as Set came near. Elk and Hobbes continued their conversation without minding at all. And.....

「Okay, we're setting off! It's the Orc subjugation!」

## Chapter 27

Rei, who is't hadst st'r'd hence various supplies behoveful f'r the Orc subjugation into the Misty Ringeth, hath left Hobbes, who is't still hadst 'rrands to runneth and exit'd the guild through the backeth doth'r.

「Gururu~」

Set did notice Rei and gaveth a joyous caterwauling, the two of those folk head'd to the city of Gimuru's main gate.

「Oh, doth thee has't a quest the present day?」

Ranga cameth out and hath called out to Rei and Setteth familiarly. the most of the guards w're still did frighten by setteth, so though that gent wast the captain.....no, because that gent wast the captain, Ranga hath seemed to has't becometh in chargeth of Rei and Setteth.

Well, though yond being hath said, a big reasoneth wast because that gent hadst been toldeth to behold out f'r Rei by the Rowlocks Margrave.

Removing his guild card from the Misty Ringeth, Rei spake while handing ov'r Setteth's Necklace of Subs'rvient Monst'r.

「It is a quest, speaking of which, has't thee hath heard about the Orcs building a village?」

Ranga twitch'd as that gent did reply.

「Of course i've hath heard it.....even if 't be true thee sayeth thou art stout, thou art still G ranketh? W're thee coequal able to accepteth the requesteth?」

「It's a urgent requesteth this timeth, if 't be true thee has't the strength to taketh down an orc, ranketh doesn't matt'r. 」

「.....I seeth. Well, if 't be true thee can defeat a Wat'r Beareth, then thee has't not any problems with strength. 」

「That's right. So, the reasoneth i'm h're is because the subjugation f'rce did agree to meeteth at the main gate in the aft'rnoon. I'm a did bite early at the moment. 」

「Guru~」

Not yet? Rei did pat Setteth's headeth while receiving the guild card backeth from Ranga.

「S'rry yond tooketh up some timeth. though thee has't Setteth with thee, prithee taketh careth. 」

Nodding to Ranga's w'rds, Rei hath moved to a grassy lodging a dram distance from the main gate with Setteth.

「Guru~」

As Setteth did lie down comf'rably in the grassy field, Rei lean'd 'gainst that gent. though the memb'rs 'riginally shouldst has't wait'd beside the gate, that gent hadst only been at Gimuru f'r a few days. Because th're w're still people who is't didn't knoweth the existence of Setteth, Rei didst so in consid'ration of not disturbing the floweth of people in and out of the city.

Set as well, rath'r than being in the city, hath seemed to enjoyeth basking in the sunlight on a grassy plain, in a joyous humor, that gent beganeth to giveth a gib liketh purr.

Though Rei in his 'riginal corse wouldst has't likely hath taken heateth stroketh by staying und'r the summ'r travelling lamp f'r so longeth, t wast because his physical ability wast diff'rent, because the dragon robe function'd as a simple air condition'r, that gent couldst leaneth 'gainst setteth with a merit visage.

「.....Rei-kun, is't?」

Leaving precaution of the surroundings to Setteth, that gent suddenly did notice his nameth being hath called while enjoying that gent wast enjoying good morrow catch but a wink and dozing off, Rei's consciousness rapidly did awake.

Opening his eyes, a mistress in h'r thirties wast in front of that gent, the lady w're a robe and hadst a sturdy cane. next to h'r, a middle ag'd sir gazed with an int'resting visage while the figure of a knave 'round Rei's age hadst his visage harden as if 't be true seeing something that gent couldn't believeth.

It wast the three memb'rs of the A ranketh party Axe of the Thund'r God, Elk, Min and Rhodes.

「Is t about timeth?」

「Not yet, but eke .....that, may i asketh thee something?」

While gen'rally guessing what wast about to beest hath asked, Rei did nod to Min's w'rds.

「I bethink not th're's a mistaketh but thou art leaning on a Griffon. ....why?」

Even if 't be true thee sayeth those gents w're memb'rs of the Axe of the Thund'r God, those gents still hadst some feareth towards the Griffon, an A ranketh monst'r. Though Min timidly hath asked, Rei's answ'r wast extremely sh'rt.

「It's because i tam'd t. 」

「Do-don't joketh 'round! you're a G ranketh adventur'r but the Griffon.....tsu~!?!」

Although t wast Rhode who is't ret'rt'd and did shout frankly at Rei's w'rds, that gent becameth hath lost f'r w'rds at which hour Setteth did turn his headeth round and gaveth a deep caterwauling.

This couldn't beest holp. Coequal if 't be true thee sayeth that gent did belong to an a rank'd party, Rhodes himself wast only an adventur'r of the C ranketh. taking noticeth of the A ranketh Griffon, that gent wast instinctively remind'd of the diff'rence in status between those folk.

「Hey, settleth down setteth. 」

While smiling wryly at rhodes compliment extern, Rei calm'd setteth down.

「Guru~」

While scratching setteth's headeth as usual with a k'ri~k'ri~ soundeth, that gent hath said to Rhodes.

「I'll sayeth this f'r anon, Setteth isn't hostile to oth'rs. Howev'r, if 't be true the oth'r party wanteth to harmeth me, yond's diff'rent. 」

「.....」

To those w'rds, Rhodes still hath felt yond Setteth might growl at that gent and wasn't able to sayeth aught as his that from which we speak hath opened and did close with a paku~ paku~ soundeth.

「Gahahahahaha. this is most wondrous, knave. though i've seen monst'r tam'rs, this is the first timeth i've seen someone tameth a griffon. ho, may i toucheth t?」

「Dad!」

This might beest the diff'rence between an a ranketh and C ranketh. Or, t couldst beest just the diff'rence in exp'rience.

「Set, what shall thee doth? that sir wouldst liketh to toucheth thee. 」

「Guru~. . . . .」

Set did stare at Rhodes, Elk and Min in 'rd'r. aft'r a few seconds, that gent gaveth a sh'rt bark and gaveth his tail a sh'rt waft.

「He sayeth thee can. 」

「I seeth. s'rry about this. 」

Th're wast a high grise of risketh in touching a A ranketh monst'r, howev'r, Elk didn't has't a did strain compliment extern and did smile as that gent hath reached out his handeth. His handeth did touch Setteth's corse, which Rei wast leaning against.....

「Oh! What, this smooth texture. this is the first timeth i've seen a Griffon, t's fur hast such a smooth toucheth. 」

the most wondrous way to describeth Setteth's fur wouldst beest yond t hadst a smooth texture liketh silk.

While patting the smooth fur, with a did satisfy mind, elk did nod.

「Hey, Rei. didst thee sayeth Setteth? it couldst beest possible with this quality to maketh robes with this fur f'r royalty thee knoweth?」

「Now then, what to doth about t. I mind not t as th're wasn't such an intention.....」

「.....Rei-kun, may i pateth t too?」

Unable to holdeth h'r curiosity at Elk's w'rds, Min eke hath asked.

When Rei did look at Setteth, that gent shaked his tail in the same way as with Elk.

「He doesn't mind. 」

「I seeth, then betimes. ....Elk, moveth hence a dram did bite. alloweth me feeleth the smooth toucheth. 」

「Mum! It's dang'rous to approach a Griffon!」

Though Rhodes hath tried to stand ho h'r, of course, t wasn't possible to stand ho Min, whose eyes w're shining with curiosity.

「Hou~, Hou~, Hou~, Hou~.....The toucheth is c'rtainly smooth. enow yond i wanteth to toucheth t f'rev'r. 」

「I knoweth right? Well, t's our lucky day the present day to toucheth a Griffon without w'rrying about being did attack. 」

「That's right, t's as Elk hath said. A ranketh monst'r Griffon, t's a priceless exp'rience to toucheth t's corse. 」

While seeing two people patting his corse in such a way, aft'r turning and glancing at Rhodes with sharp eyes, Setteth did close his eyes.

「Kukuku~. T doesn't liketh thee, Rhodes. 」

Elk did see the situation and hath called out to Rhodes while smiling as that gent and Min strok'd Setteth's corse.

「Beh, i careth not coequal if 't be true i'm dislik'd by a Griffon. 」

No treatment, Elk alloweth out a sigheth. In yond state, Rei hath called out to Elk.

「I wast toldeth by Hobbes to act togeth'r with thee until we reacheth the orc village. Prithee taketh careth of me. 」

「Huh!? Why doth we needeth to taketh careth of a ranketh G all the way!?!」

To Rei's w'rds, Rhodes wast naturally the first to react, but t wast Elk rath'r than Rei who is't int'rject'd.

「That's a matt'r of course. Ah, of course i mind not. 」

「Dad!」

To Rhodes who is't did argue vehemently, Elk alloweth out an amaz'd sigheth.

「Listen up. Recall the meeting yond tooketh lodging this m'rnig? Rei wast entrust'd with the transp'rt of goods f'r useth this timeth in the orc subjugation quest. 」

「Ah. I knoweth t because i hath heard t as well. 」

「Well then, what doth thee bethink shall befall if 't be true Rei gets taken out by a orc 'r anoth'r monst'r?」

「That is.....ah.....」

「Have thee finally realised? Yond is right, all the supplies and equipment art gone if 't be true Rei dies. Well, h're's the problem. What art we?」

「.....A ranketh party, Axe of the Thund'r God. 」

「That's right. Furth'rm're, we art the only A ranketh party participating in the Orc subjugation this timeth. 」

Rank A. Though t is one ranketh below the guild's s ranketh, because only 3 S ranketh people did exist in the w'rld, ev'ry adventur'r knoweth yond a ranketh is only just below those folk. And as S ranks art scarce with only 3 in existence, to gen'ral adventur'rs, those gents consid'r people of a ranketh to beest substantially bett'r than themselves.

And the Axe of the Thund'r God wast a party with 2 such a ranketh adventur'rs. Their ability and track rec'rd in Gimuru w're consid'r'd top class talent by the guild, which wasn't a mistaketh.

「We, who is't art consid'r'd to beest the largest combat f'rce, art accompanying Rei, who is't is carrying the subjugation f'rces' supplies, as bodyguards. ....is th're aught strange?」

「I c'rtainly und'rstand the imp'rtance of the supplies. Howev'r, isn't t well enow coequal if 't be true we guardeth not this guy? Because coequal b 'r C ranketh parties couldst act as esc'rts. 」

Rhodes becameth obstinate and object'd to Elk.

(Shit, mum and father shouldst taketh careth with a guy liketh yond. an item boxeth and a Griffon, that gent's relying on his monst'r and charm item and not his owneth pow'r. As f'r the needeth to guardeth that gent in particular.....)

While bethinking so in his mind, that gent did direct his gazeth to Elk.

His antipathy to rei, although the p'rson in questioneth didn't knoweth, wast because of his moth'r, as Rei hadst hath said.

Of course, his fath'r, Elk, who is't wast the leadeth'r of the Axe of the Thund'r God, naturally did notice this.



「Listen up. This is mine own decision as leadeth'r of Axe of the Thund'r God. Th're shall beest nay objections, thou art not did allow to skimp on the esc'rt eith'r. 」

「.....Okay. 」

To Elk's unusually stout 'rd'r, Rhodes reluctantly did nod in the endeth.

(S'riously, didst we spoileth this fellow too much? Even if 't be true his ability is C rank.....he hast the charact'r of sticking to his moth'r. 'Twill beest valorous if 't be true that gent can taketh some influenceth from Rei in this quest if 't be true possible. )

Unlike Min, Elk couldn't detecteth charm pow'r. Howev'r, as an a ranketh adventur'r, that gent still vaguely did guess Rei's ability and potential. By talking, Elk wast able to gen'rally grasp his charact'r. Though Rei did hide a vast pow'r in his corse, that gent wasn't a lacking valor p'rson. ....m'reov'r, at which hour that gent hath heard what hath happened to the claws of the hawk, that gent couldn't holp but has't a wry smileth.

F'r elk, that gent didn't liketh the way the claws of the hawk pick'd a square with a rookie to maketh that gent doth their ch'res. ....While knowing yond th're is some effect on the development of a rookie, that gent couldst nev'r cometh to liketh t. Th'ref're, at which hour that gent did collect inf'rmaton on rei aft'r the orc subjugation meeting, that gent didn't feeleth irk'd hearing about Rei's ado with the claws of the hawk. Rath'r, that gent didst well! That gent che'r'd and did applaud.

While watching Elk w'rry about his son's behavi'r, Rei did turn his gazeth tot that gent main gate while leaning on Setteth.

The people from the parties yond that gent hadst seen in the meeting in the m'rning w're gath'r'd. While most of those folk w're talking, the frequently did turn their eyes to Rei. Rath'r yond elk of Axe of the Thund'r God.....most w're looking at the Griffon, Setteth. T wasn't unreasonable as while people hadst hath heard inf'rmaton about Rei from inside the guild, t wast still the first timeth those gents hadst ev'r seen a genuine Griffon.

(But.....the eyes obs'rving me and not setteth art the same as bef're)

Those eyes hadst hath followed that gent ev'r since that gent hath shown off

the misty ringeth in the meeting cubiculo. Those gents w're eyes that gent hath felt all the timeth except at which hour that gent wast in the dusk wheat inn.

F'r the people sending glances, those gents likely pri'ritiz'd obtaining the misty ringeth ov'r the orc subjugation, Rei hadst a wry smileth as that gent hadst a humour in his mind yond a square wouldst cometh anon'r 'r lat'r.

「Oh, that gent cameth. 」

At Elk's murmur, rei did turn his gazeth to the main gate again.

From yond lodging, 'round 8 wagons cameth from the city. the figure of hobbess couldst beest seen in addition to the coachman of the first h'rse drawn wagon.

「People who is't has't hath taken the orc subjugation quest, each party might not but gath'r up and rideth on a wagon. in addition, Rei and Axe of the Thund'r God shall beest in the cent'r wagon with me. doth thee all und'rstand?」

To the adventur'rs gath'r'd who is't beganeth to talketh, Elk then hath asked.

「Ah. The purpose is to reduceth the possibility of losing the goods?」

Elk hath said in replyeth to Hobbes' w'rds.

Elk head'd to the h'rse drawn wagon. Min and Rhodes subsequently hath followed. Rei and setteth eke head'd f'r the wagon.

Adventur'rs who is't hadst gath'r'd near the main gate beganeth boarding the wagons those gents hath decided on hastily as setteth cameth near. Elk and Hobbes hath continued their conv'rsation without minding at all. And.....

「Okay, we're setting off! it's the Orc subjugation!」

## Chapter 28

Gata~, goto~, gata~, goto~. While making such noises, the 8 wagons left the city of Gimuru.

Adventurers who were participating in the Orc subjugation were inside each wagon, aside from the coachman, the figure of at least one adventurer dispatched by the guild was with them in case of an attack by monsters or bandits.

Meanwhile, only the coachman was outside the wagon that Rei was riding in.

「Being able to rely on the searching ability of a Griffon was a good miscalculation. Though I heard that you had tamed a monster, I'd never thought it would be a Griffon. When he asked Gran about the story, he doubted his sanity when he heard it.」

「Gahahaha~. It seems to be so. When I also got to the front gate to meet, I thought the same when I saw Rei using the Griffon as a pillow a bit further away.」

「It's unexpected that the horses that are pulled the wagons are calm. When Set appeared, the horses at the inn's stables were in a restless state.」

If the horses pulling the wagons were afraid of Set, then it wouldn't be possible for them move, Set would have had to move away from the wagons and travel by himself. And because Rei wouldn't be able to be with him, travelers and merchants who saw Set would submit a subjugation request to the guild, after the Orc subjugation would be a Griffon subjugation.....though that flow of thought wasn't really a possibility.

「I heard from Gran that the monster you tamed was a Griffon. I had to prepare war horses in a hurry. ....Well, it was worth it.」

Hobbes looked out the window of the wagon while smiling wryly. Set was walking quietly next to the wagon.

Even if Set was near, the horses pulling the wagon were not frightened at all compared to the horses in the stable of the Dusk Wheat, they pulled the wagon

indifferently.

War horse. They were produced by crossbreeding pedigrees of horses that had high performance, they were also trained to not be frightened or confused in combat. Their bodies were about 1.5 times larger than a normal horse, it had the fighting power to stomp to death monsters the level of Goblins. Naturally, their price was several times the cost compared to the normal horses travelers and merchants use. For the 8 wagons, there were a total of 16 of these expensive war horses. From that alone, you could tell how serious the Adventurers Guild was about the Orc subjugation.

「But, it seems the people riding the other wagons don't trust Set so much.」

Though Rei said that they could leave the watch during the journey to Set for the time being, the other adventurer parties didn't like it. He didn't push further after Hobbes said that they could handle their own security.

「It can't be helped. After all, hasn't only been a few days since you registered with the guild? Not all the other parties have the same track record as Elk, it's something they can't bear.」

「While the guards of the other wagons are vigilant, I think the biggest reason is the Griffon and not other enemies attacking.」

Rhodes connected Hobbes' words. Elk also nodded.

「Well, to those guys, it's nothing but a nightmare to be attacked by a Griffon. It can't be helped. Though Min and I aren't worried since we get along with Set.....Rhodes, it's a bit dangerous for you at the moment.」

Grinning, Elk made fun at Rhodes while smiling.

However, Min, who was sitting across from Rhodes, thrust out her cane and buried it into Elk's belly.

「Guh! M-Min.....you can't just thrust with the cane in this narrow wagon, though it might not pierce.....if it wasn't me, others would be injured.」

「Shut up, idiotic husband. It's because you're purposely threatening Rhodes.」

「Mum.....」

To Min's words, Rhodes had a happy voice.

(I guess the mother complex is going to show much heavier symptoms from this.)

While looking at the situation, Rei took the meat skewers, which were still hot, from the Misty Ring and carried it to his mouth.

The texture was close to chicken, but it was actually the meat of the Poison Frog. Previously, it was a Poison Frog that Rei had encountered during the Goblin subjugation quest. Once the poison is extracted from the meat, the meat can be steamed, he discovered it being cooked with a special sauce and sold in a store on his way to collect the goods in the guild, he bought a few out of curiosity and stored them in the Misty Ring. Inside the Misty Ring, the flow of time is stopped, because of that, the skewers were still steaming hot even though they had been bought a few hours ago.

「Uoh~, something smells good.....Rei, what are you eating?」

Maybe he had recovered from the pain of the blow from the cane, Elk, who smelled the sauce, stared enviously.

His eyes were already sparkling to the extent you wouldn't think he was a middle aged man, the atmosphere of wanting to eat spread into the surroundings.

And Rei, who no longer endure the looks, couldn't help it and took out a Poison Frog skewer out of the Misty Ring before giving to Elk.

「Oh, sorry about this.....wait, it's still burning hot. How come?」

「It's a function of the Misty Ring. The flow of time stops inside. If you store things, hot things will stay hot and cold things will stay cold when you take them back out.」

「Heh~.....as expected, it's worthy of being called a rare item in the world.」

Min nodded, impressed at Rei's explanation. And Rhodes, who saw that, naturally entered a bad mood.

「Hmph. Even if the quality of the magic item is good, if the person's ability is low, there's no point in coming to the Orc subjugation.」

Like that, the Orc subjugation force advanced in the wagons with seeds of unease left around.

One of the wagons. A three person adventurer group were riding in the wagon, one was keeping watch at the driver's area.....cautious mainly of Set than the surroundings.

「Hey, what are we going to do. I participated in this dangerous request for a chance to steal the item box. I didn't here about a tamed Griffon!」

「Wait Al. Don't get so flustered, it's unbecoming.」

「Sunyi, do you really understand the situation? It's a Griffon, a Griffon! It's an A rank monster, the shinigami of the skies! It's not something we as a D rank party can fight!」

「Be quiet Al and Sunyi. Even if you say that the Griffon is tamed, it doesn't mean that it follows that rookie 24/7. Especially while fighting and camping.....」

The argument between the male and female adventurers in their twenties was stopped by a women in her thirties.

「But big sis. Wouldn't the Orc subjugation fail then?」

「So what then?」

The woman replied frankly to the man's voice.

「But then.....that, if the Orc subjugation fails, the city of Gimuru.....」

「Calm down Al. Nothing major will happen to the city of Gimuru even if the Orc subjugation fails. If the going gets tough, they can just get reinforcements from the country.」

In that situation, it will probably give the nobles faction an opportunity that they've been looking for, she murmured in her head.

The woman's name was Seryl. She was a C rank adventurer. With Al and Sunyi, who were in the same wagon, and the man who was in the driver's area, Murgas, she led the four of them in a party called Dark Night's Star. Usually, these four people wouldn't receive a subjugation request for Orcs, let alone ones led by a rare species or higher rank species. Then why had they received this quest? It was because they were aiming to steal Rei's item box.

If you searched the world, item boxes were rare. You would be able to make a mountain of money if got your hands on one. A numbing feeling flowed down Seryl's back by just by thinking of it.

(And I'll be able to leave this dangerous frontier area with the money. I would live a wealthy life in the Imperial City.)

Seryl was already in her thirties, she wouldn't be able to continue her adventuring work for much longer. She had already given up on ranking up to rank B. She was only at a C rank caliber.

And at this time, a rookie in his mid teens had appeared. When she heard that he had an item box, Seryl had made up her mind. She had to take the item box at any cost. No, it should have been something she should have had in the first place. Because she had worked so hard for so long.

Seryl was convinced, she ordered three subordinates, who were currently her party members, to investigate Rei's actions. And, with that timing, they happened to hear Rei participating in the Orc subjugation, with that, they also decided to join.

「But you know, big sis. That Rei brat, didn't he have the ability to take down the Claws of the Hawk by himself? Even without the Griffon they said.....」

「Use your head a little, Al. We don't have to defeat that rookie fairly from the front. There's no problem even if we steal it while he's asleep. When he's fighting we can surprise attack from behind. Any means possible.」

Seryl had a smile with meaning, but Al, who had an honest mind, didn't see it.

Regardless of whether Rei was protected or not, Al had an attachment to the city to Gimuru. That was why he didn't want to obstruct the Orc subjugation quest.

(In addition, he defeated Vargas quickly. I was told that Vargas, even if it was only combat power, was a C rank, no mistake.)

Al suddenly, thought about what Murgas, who was sitting in the driver's area, would do.

Murgas was basically a timid person, because of that, he was scared of the existence of the Griffon, that's why he had volunteered to keep a lookout at the driver's box so he could perceive any actions even a bit sooner. As a timid person, if he sensed the state of the Griffon to be strange, he would probably give a shout into the wagon before running away quickly.

「.....Ah.」

Meanwhile, Sunyi, who had been quiet until now, let out an unexpected voice.

「Anything, Sunyi?」

「Sis.....that, Griffon.....」

「Griffon?」

Griffon, the tension couldn't be concealed when that word was said, Seryl prompted her to continue.

「With one kick, it just scattered a pack of Fang Wolves.」

「-!?」

Seryl and Al suddenly stood up from their seats and went to the window at Sunyi's words.

Looking ahead, they saw a pack of Fang Wolves, wolves with a distinctively larger fang, being trampled by a Griffon.

With a single swing of its claws, a neck was severed, thrusting its beak at another wolf, it pierced another head, a wolf that tried to sneak around and bite his tail had its body crushed by the lion like feet.

「It's taking on a pack of Fang Wolves so easily.....」

Al leaked a voice of blank surprise at the fight.

Speaking on a rank basis, the Fang Wolf was an F rank monster, it wasn't strong by itself. However, they are the only wolves that turned into monsters and still formed groups to hunt. Because of its low rank, adventurers who just registered with the guild assume that a Fang Wolf subjugation isn't that hard, because of that, there would be cases of the hunters becoming the hunted several times a year.

F rank is still F rank, even if it formed groups, it was only E rank. But no matter what rank it was placed at, the degree of risk was D rank equivalent.

It may be possible to defeat a pack as a C or D rank adventurer party. But, to fight easily, to the point of overwhelming them, it couldn't be called a fight like that. But looking out from the wagon, the Griffon seemed to be unhurt.



Seeing the figure of the Griffon, Sunyi, who had been deriding Al for his timidity, had the thought pass through her head of what would happen if they messed with the rookie and failed.

「Big sis.....」

The voice of Sunyi that called out to Seryl had traces of fear and fright.

It wasn't good the way things were going. Their minds may have given up before they could take the item box from Rei. Seryl who determined that, spoke up loudly.

「Both of you, there's no need to be scared. Though I said it before, our aim is only to take away the item box. Even if you say how strong the Griffon is, there's no need to fight them head on. You only need attack him by surprise, take away the item box and run away quickly.」

Naturally, because they would run away from the subjugation duty, the fate of Gimuru would be involved, if they did carry it out, it would be unlikely that they would be able to stay in the city of Gimuru. However, Seryl intended to live off by selling the item box, escaping to the Imperial City and retiring comfortably. She would possibly be put on the Adventurer Guild's wanted list through the Gimuru branch but she was a C rank and had confidence in not being defeated by local adventurers. As soon as she got the money from selling the item box, she would hire a strong bodyguard, she may even be able to apply pressure on the guild by siding with the nobles faction.

Even if the guild called itself an organization independent of the country, in the end it was still the country's land, Seryl expected that they wouldn't put her on the wanted list if they didn't want to get into trouble with the nobles faction.

When she pictured her purpose and bright future in her head again, even the sense of fear from the scene of the the Griffon's slaughter was wiped away.

Starting to speak, she clapped the shoulders of Al and Sunny, who were looking anxious, with a ban~ ban~ sound .

「Come on, it'll be okay. First is the camp tonight. If it goes well, we'll be able to take away the item box and quickly run away before we reach the Orc village. Look for a good opportunity. 」

At a distance a bit further away from where Seryl was speaking, Set was pecking meat from a Fang Wolf that was double the size of the others in the pack.

# Chapter 29

Pachi~ pachi~, the sound of the burning campfire echoed around, it could be heard in the tent Rei was resting in.

As the only sources of light that illuminated the area were the moonlight and bonfire, several adventurers gathered around the campfire, wary of the surroundings.

It was currently night time. Aside from those assigned to the night watch, the rest of the parties had eaten dinner and were resting in their tents.

In the tent Rei was resting in, the three members of Axe of the Thunder God were also sleeping while keeping their hands on their weapons, ready in case an enemy came.

Originally, Rei wanted to rest alone, however, he was ordered by Hobbes to be in the same tent as Axe of the Thunder God, just in case.

(.....So, they didn't come.)

There was a reason Rei wanted to rest alone. It was a party which had sent glances at him since he received the Orc subjugation quest, he wanted to make himself bait to lure out Dark Night's Star, a party of 3 men and a woman. Originally, he didn't want to do such a troublesome thing, but he decided to do something early when he thought of the possibility of being stabbed in the back when fighting the Orcs. However, during the night, nothing in particular happened, maybe they thought they couldn't do anything with Set and Axe of the Thunder God next to him.

In addition, it should be noted that Rei was going to work a shift of the night watch, but he was also exempted from it under Hobbes' orders.

「Big sis, it's pointless. The tent the rookie is in is the same tent as Axe of the Thunder God, the Griffon is also uncomfortably close. I think we should have taken advantage of the cover of darkness earlier.」

From the entrance of the tent given to Dark Night's Star, Murgas looked at the tent Rei and Axe of the Thunder God were in. Murgas said that in a low

voice so as to not be heard by the people sleeping near the tent.

Though Rei's tent would normally be invisible at that distance, even with campfire light, Murgas, who was in charge of Dark Night's Star's scouting, had good night vision. In addition, the tent Rei was in had Set lying outside, sleeping.

「Tch, it can't be helped. We'll call off tonight's raid.」

As Seryl said that sulkily, she flopped down inside the tent and rolled away. Though there weren't any blankets, they weren't necessary as it was unlikely to catch cold in this summer season.

「Seriously, it was unexpected of Hobbes to trust the Griffon. The other guys too, consenting to having a monster so near.」

Though Hobbes was given command of the Orc subjugation force, in the end, he was only a commander in battle. Before arriving at the Orc village, he wasn't the absolute commander. ....At least Seryl thought so. Therefore, when they decided to camp here, she appealed saying that she didn't want to sleep near the Griffon even if it was tamed.....however, Set's senses were explained to be exceptional, in addition, after seeing Set's combat effectiveness against the pack of Fang Wolves, none of the other adventurer parties backed Seryl up.

While hearing the story, the adventurers saw Set being pampered by Rei whilst making a gurururu~ sound, even if it was only slightly, they judged that they wouldn't be harmed by the Griffon as long as it was with Rei, at the same time, they calculated that Set would be sharper than an incompetent watch if he was near the tents. However, they still had alternating watches as a precaution.

In addition, every time Hobbes' hourglass timed out, another party would take their turn for lookout.

At night, Dark Night's Star acted differently than the other adventurers to Rei and Hobbes' actions, the uncomfortable feeling about Axe of the Thunder God or the unpleasantness of being next to a Griffon.....they ended up putting their tent on the grounds at the place furthest away from Rei's tent.

「Big sis, what do we do?」

Though the voice of Sunyi spread through the tent, Seryl answered while closing her eyes.

「We can't do anything with the Axe of the Thunder God and the Griffon at his side. Tonight we'll rest and sleep quietly. The real thing will be tomorrow night, at the time we attack the Orc village. ....If we can steal the item box, we will also get all the supplies that have been prepared for this expedition.」

Seryl muttered, she remembered the scene in the evening when they had decided to camp here. It was the scene of the supplies needed for setting up camp appearing one after the other in the hand of that rookie, this alone showed the true value of the item box. And at the same time, it provoked Seryl's greed even more.

Seryl lied down and closed her eyes, she fell asleep while imagining the scene of living in the Imperial Capital without needing to work.

She remained unaware of Al frowning his eyebrows lightly next to her.

The next day, the tents had already been all stored back into the Misty Ring, the only traces left were the remains of the campfires lit the previous night. The breakfast of biscuits and dry meat, prepared by the guild, was quickly eaten and the preparations for departure completed.

.....By the way, because Rei had stored the food box prepared by the landlady of the Dusk Wheat into the Misty Ring, he ate the sandwiches in the food box instead. On a side note, Set had flown somewhere himself to hunt and ate by himself.

Though he wasn't sure what happened to the magic stone, Rei judged that it probably wasn't a high rank monster as an announcement message didn't appear in his mind after Set had his breakfast.

Hobbes spoke up to the rest of the Orc subjugation force as departure preparations were completed.

「Listen up. Though I said it yesterday, if we keep going like yesterday, we will reach the vicinity of the Orc village sometime around noon. We will then take a break until midnight for everyone to restore their strength. That is for the people who were on night watch last night and lack sleep in particular. The

surprise attack is timed for just after midnight. As you know, Orcs are a monster that acts in groups. First of all, because they are likely to have a guard, they have to be taken out silently. To completely annihilate the Orcs after that, each party will encircle the village and attack it. After killing all the Orcs and collecting proofs of subjugation and materials, we will stay until morning. Any questions?」

「Do you get exclusive rights to the body if you defeat a rare species or higher rank species of Orc?」

「Ah, of course.」

「What happens if you discover weapons or treasure that the Orcs have?」

「In that case the person who found it can claim ownership.」

Hobbes proceeded to answer the minor questions that were also asked.

While listening to the discussion, Rei thought about his magic.

(If it's my magic, I can just wipe out the village.....no, that will probably burn everything. Should I do it? .....No, the Orcs in the village will be turned into charcoal and I won't be able to get the magic stones. Then, that leaves participating in the attack with the other parties to obtain them.....I guess?)

Giving up on the magic stones and burning down the entire village, monopolizing the achievement, or participate in the surprise attack with the rest of the adventurer parties, giving priority to collecting magic stones and sharing the achievement. Thinking for a few seconds on which was more advantageous, Rei readily chose the latter.

If he chose the former, he would certainly monopolize the achievements. However, in other words, he would be depriving the other adventurer parties of achievements. As a results, when thinking about the possibility of being unjustly resented, the latter choice was better as he could obtain magic stones. Though there may be a chance to obtain achievements other than the Orc subjugation, this place was the only possibility of obtaining the magic stones of rare and high ranking Orc species.

「Right, are there any other questions? Then split up and board the wagons like yesterday. We're departing.」

At Hobbes' words and signal, they each boarded the wagon they rode

yesterday.

At that time, several impressed adventurers gave out some words of thanks to Rei and Set. Even though Set had stayed by Rei's tent all night, some confidence was gained after spending a night with him.

「Rei-kun, we should also ride the wagons.」

To Rei and Set, who were watching the other adventurers, Min's voice came over.

Behind her were the rest of Axe of the Thunder God, as usual, Elk had a smile on his lips while Rhodes was looking at Rei in a bad mood.

「You're right, we will be able to break for a bit longer when we reach there.」

Muttering, Rei, boarded the wagon after patting Set lightly.

In addition to Rei and Axe of the Thunder God, Hobbes boarded similarly and the war horses began to pull the wagons.

A while after the wagons started moving, while Rei was learning about the knacks of stripping materials from monsters defeated in the labyrinth, Hobbes unexpectedly interrupted the conversation.

「Rei, and Elk as well. Though I think you've noticed, a party with purposes other than subjugating Orcs seems to be participating in the subjugation force.」  
「Ah. Is the party named Dark Night's Star?」

Rei nodded to Elk's words.

Dark Night's Star was an adventurer party of three men and a woman. In particular, Rei had noticed glances clouded with greed from the middle-aged woman who was the leader.

It was the same eyes he had felt from the time the meeting for the subjugation force in the guild ended, the glances became more obvious after leaving the city.

When he felt the eyes that were filled with greed, at first, he thought if his body was the aim. Aside from the time he was still Saeki Reiji, the body that Zepairu's organization had created was quite beautiful, Rei was able to somewhat understand.

However, the direction of the gaze from the leader of Dark Night's Star, Seryl, was neither his face or body but the Misty Ring that was on his right arm.

「I see, so you have noticed. Apparently the aim of those guys seem to be the item box, no doubt.」

「I bet. Did they think I hadn't noticed, they were blatantly looking at my right arm.」

If Rei was an actual, ordinary G rank adventurer, then he might not have noticed the glances directed from the C rank adventurer Seryl. However, fortunately or unfortunately, Rei wasn't your average G rank adventurer.

「.....I see. If you think about the strange glances, then their aim is probably the item box. Shit, just because of such a small thing. Generally speaking, you're a G rank, so why do have such a rare magic item?」

Rhodes muttered while looking at the bracelet which was worn on Rei's arm. As expected, it seems the members of Axe of the Thunder God were aware of the greedy looks.

「I lived with my teacher who taught me magic in the depths of a mountain, I don't know the location. So, he said that my training had completed the first stage and used spatial magic to send Set and I to the Forest of Monsters, because of that, I was given some magic items. They are this Misty Ring, my main weapon, the Death Sycthe and aside from that, various other things.」

He told that to Rhodes while remembering the description he had given Ranga when entering the city of Gimuru.

「.....Forest of Monsters, is it? You, were sent there with spatial magic?」

「Ah. I was truly surprised when a Water Bear appeared right in front of me after being sent there.」

「Water Bear.....」

Rhodes looked at Rei with a dumbfounded expression. The look of contempt in his eyes that was there a few minutes ago had become somewhat thinner.

「Well, putting aside the Forest of Monsters. Rei, be careful with Dark Night's Star at night. Those guys' intentions are probably to steal the Misty Ring, they'll try to hit you with a surprise attack or something.」



Rei nodded to Elk's words.

「I thought so. They seemed to hate Set sleeping near tents at the camp last night.....I think that is likely. Well, after all, the proposal was rejected by all the other parties. Even if I kept Set away from the tent temporarily, Axe of the Thunder God are still in the same tent I'm sleeping in, I don't think they'll try anything.」

「But, the item box.....no, isn't the Misty Ring only usable by you, Rei? So is there even any point if Dark Night's Star took it?」

Min recalled what she was told when she was shown the Misty Ring in the meeting room at the guild, Rei had a smile of ridicule on his mouth.

「In the end, rare goods are still rare goods. It might be interesting to let them steal it on purpose and see their comical figures after realizing they can't use it.....」

「Oi, oi, supplies for the subjugation are in it. Don't do dangerous things for no reason.」

「Ahh, I'm just joking. There's no need to do such a pointless thing. It will be troublesome if ends up being thrown away because it can't be used.」

「That's right. Anyway, Axe of the Thunder God will look out for Dark Night's Star at night, take care Rei. ....Rather, when we start the night attack on the village, can you act with Axe of the Thunder God?」

Thinking about Hobbes' words for a few seconds, he shook his head.

「No, there aren't that many people available. It isn't necessary to leave a gap for the Orcs to escape.」

Though Rei answered as such, his real intention was that he didn't want to be seen absorbing magic stones if he cooperated with Axe of the Thunder God.

「I see. Well, though you should be okay with the Griffon.....don't be careless. Watch out for Dark Night's Star for the time being as well.」

It was true that there certainly was few people in this urgent request. Hobbes nodded with a bitter expression as if he had bitten on a bug.

With that, the Orc subjugation force arrived near the village before noon.

# Chapter 30

The location was about an hours walking distance from the Orc village. The Orc subjugation force from Gimuru stopped the wagons and the leaders of each party gathered in Hobbes' tent for a strategy meeting. Rei was also called to the meeting as the person in charge of transporting supplies.

Though there are adventurers on watch so that Orcs and other monsters don't come near, they don't have a nervous appearance.

To begin with, excluding Rei, the lowest ranked adventurer party to accept the Orc subjugation quest was still D rank, and above all, the Griffon, Set, was keeping watch.

「Well, though we have arrived here safely at last.....I want to scout the situation at the Orc village first. Are there any volunteers?」

To Hobbes' words, all of the participating party leaders remained silent.

Even Elk was silent. After all, the party composition of Axe of the Thunder God was 2 warriors and a mage. It couldn't be helped as they didn't have anyone in charge of scouting.

Though there were parties with thieves, they judged it to be too dangerous and remained silent.

Moreover, as for the leader of Dark Night's Star, Seryl, though they had thief like Murgas, their aim was different.

(It's necessary to have Murgas watch the rookie. He's been ordered to steal the item box if there is a chance, I can't assign him the troublesome duty of scouting the Orc village.)

As she was thinking this in her mind, her eyes swam around for a moment when Hobbes glanced at her.

「Seryl, wasn't there a thief in Dark Night's Star? How about that guy?」  
「I apologize, but his personality isn't good to scout the Orc village. He's basically a coward. Well, he's a thief who can find the enemy before they find us.」

By the way, here, a thief didn't mean someone who stole things. When adventuring, their role was to scout ahead and to make traps. They were thieves in the sense that would open trapped chests in labyrinths without needing a key.

「.....I see.」

As Rei was watching the exchange of words between Hobbes and Seryl, he raised his hand.

「Though I think someone has asked, in this case, will scouting count towards achievements for the guild?」

「Ah, that's natural of course.」

「Then, I will do the scouting.」

「.....What?」

For an instant, Hobbes wasn't able to understand what Rei was saying and asked again.

「As I said, I would like to take on the role of scouting.」

「Wait a second. Do you have the skills of a thief?」

Though one of the party leaders near Hobbes asked, Rei shook his head in silence.

「I haven't acquired such skills.」

「Then I will object. Though my party can't provide a thief, I'm against you scouting if it risks being found. If we're found, won't the night attack be ruined as well?」

「That's right. I'm also against it.」

All the other party leaders agreed with the words of the man who spoke up first.

However, as Rei saw his thoughts being rejected, he smiled as he started to speak.

「Certainly, I don't have the skills of a thief. And the general opinion is that the night attack will become useless if I'm found while scouting. However, as you know, I have Set.」

「Ah!?」

As soon as Rei said that, the others understood what he wanted to say. Elk gave a loud cry.

While the neighbouring people turned their eyes to Elk, Rei continued to talk.

「Set's a Griffon. In other words, it can fly. And because I tamed Set, naturally, I can ride on his back.」

As he said that, all the other people in the area understood how Rei was planning to scout. They turned their eyes to Rei with looks of admiration.

.....With the exception of one person, Seryl, who had a bitter expression on her face.

Still, the reason why no one had thought of scouting from the sky until Rei said it was because magic that allowed people to fly was a highly advanced magic and very few people could use it.

At the same time, though there naturally were beastkin adventurers participating in the Orc subjugation force, beastkin from bird families didn't exist, as a result none of them had thought of scouting from the air either.

By the way, although there are people called Dragon Knights among the knights of the country, it took lot of resources and time to hatch a Wyvern from an egg and raise it along side a Dragon Knight candidate, as a result, most of them belonged to the country's military forces and were stationed in the Imperial Capital, there were none of them in a frontier city like Gimuru.

「Hobbes, is there a problem if I ride Set to scout the Orc village from the sky?」

「No, there are none. I mean, we welcome it if you can do it.」

Grinning, Hobbes nodded as a fierce smile came on to his face.

「What should I look for?」

「First of all is the number of enemies. Next is where the village is built. Lastly, it will be good if you can note where the defense of the village is weak. At the same time, I would like to know who the monster is that is leading the Orcs. Whether it is a rare species or a high ranking species. ....I hope it's a rare species.」

Rare species and high ranking species. Speaking of which is more troublesome, it is still the high ranking species. While rare species have abilities that are better than their species, high ranking species live up to their name. Though there is not much difference between a rare species and high ranking species in terms of ability to lead, it is easier to subdue a rare species, was Hobbes explanation.

Rei nodded to Hobbes words and left the place.

He felt the hateful eyes of Seryl, directed to his back.

(Damn, if possible, I wanted to steal the item box before the fight with the Orcs started. Did he volunteer to go out to scout on purpose? Seriously, is the only thing he wants to do is to gain points with the guild.)

While Seryl vaguely guessed the reason in her mind, Hobbes called out to the party leaders in the area.

「We'll finish here. Because we'll gather again when Rei comes back from scouting, please stay nearby.」

To Hobbes' words, the people went back to their own parties.

「Gururu~」

Set saw Rei after Rei left Hobbes and gave a joyful cry. Several adventurers who happened to be in the surroundings watched Set with smiles.

Apparently, by sharing the watch, a lot of people had lost their fear of Set.

「Set, we'll go out for a while. 」

「Guru~?」

「Hobbes left us the job of scouting. Will you be able to scout safely if you fly over the Orc village?」

「Gururu~」

Will do, Set gave a small cry and turned his back to Rei.

「I'm relying on you.」

After patting his back and sitting on it, Set opened his wings after a run up of a few steps and ran up into the sky, as if stepping on the air.

Adventurers watched this scene enviously.

A blue summer sky and white clouds. And glaring sunlight. Set stretched his wings and flew in such weather. Because they were flying at a reasonably high altitude, Rei judged that even if the Orcs looked at the sky and saw them, they would think it was a bird.

Rei, who was across Set's back, observed the Orc village beneath his eyes. Although scouting the ground from this altitude would be difficult for a normal person, this was a body made by the concentrated efforts of Zepairu and his organization, it wasn't particularly difficult for him to see the state on the ground.

Though Hobbes had said there were about 50 Orcs, the scale of the village was larger than expected. There might be around 100 Orcs. However, on the contrary, it may be the Orcs misfortune. For that reason, the village hadn't been completely built, east side region was almost completely untouched. Still, being cautious in the mean time, several Orcs acting as sentries could be on the east side from the air.

「Perhaps the building larger than the others in the center is the home of the Orc leader.」

The buildings that the other Orcs lived in were poor ones made from a mix of wood and straw. However, the building in the center clearly took more effort in comparison to the buildings around it. ....Still, it was shabby compared to the houses in Gimuru.

「For the number of Orcs, the situation has been confirmed. Now, I should be able to check the leader of the Orcs.....no, with my knowledge, I won't be able to tell if its a rare species or high ranking species.....I guess?」

Muttering at that time, the appearance of an Orc entered Rei's eyes. It was about double the size of a normal Orc, it was equipped with some kind of armour while the rest of the orcs were armourless.

「Is that the individual leading the Orcs?」  
「Guru~」

Rei muttered while Set gave a cry at the Orc village, he drew Rei's attention to

a place that they had looked at before, a bit further away.

「.....I see.」

There was an Orc at the place noted by Set. The Orc was also wearing armour and was double the size of the other Orcs.

And when you looked at the state of the village carefully, similar Orcs were present.

「In that case, those armours denote officers or generals. ....I guess?」

Next, he caught sight of a place where the Orcs had gathered. It was a shack north of the village. There were just under 20 Orcs around the hut.

「What? Is that a food storage or something?」

As he was thinking, the next moment, as he was about to leave the village, something jumped out of the hut and began to run.....outside, it was held down by the Orcs that had gathered. Rei's eyes, that were much sharper than a normal persons, confirmed what had jumped out. Wearing what seemed to be the remains of clothing on her body, it was a human woman that was almost stark naked.

When he concentrated on his hearing, 『No, stop it! Please don't dirty me anymore than this!』a voice could be heard faintly.

Rei furrowed his eyebrows at that sight, he recalled from Zepairu's knowledge that Orcs used human women to breed.

「Help, is it? .....No, I can't help.」

If he only considered his personal feelings, he would have rushed down and killed all the Orcs. However, even if he could take care of the Orcs near the shack, it would likely make the rest of the Orcs wary. It could become a factor in the night attack and cause it to fail, finally, it would affect the number of people sacrificed from the subjugation force as well as the number of Orcs that would be able to escape.

「.....Tonight. I'll help if you can hold out until tonight. So don't give up.」

Though he knew that the woman who had been pulled back into the hut couldn't hear him, he gave a small mutter.

Rei himself averted his eyes to continue scouting, aware of the anger he was feeling as the woman was taken back to the shack and decided he would take out the Orcs at tonight's night attack.

「In the end, most of the weapons the Orcs have are swords and clubs. Several are carrying shields. ....There are some with bows.」

With a bow in hand, Orcs with a quiver on their back could be seen walking through the village. And.....

「Are there canes too? Those are Orc Mages.」

Though there were only a few, the figures of Orcs with canes could be seen.

「Right, this much scouting should be sufficient. Set, we'll head back.」  
「Gururu~!」

Giving a sharp cry in response to Rei, Set spread his wings and returned to where the Orc subjugation force had camped.

「Orcs, tonight is your last night. I hope you enjoy your time before night to your utmost.」

With those cold words, Rei left.

When Set glided in and landed on the ground, several adventurers in the surroundings unintentionally clapped their hands as they saw it.

However, several smiling adventurers who were going to call out to Rei understood that there was something about the Orc village when they saw the cold smile on his face. They let him go straight to Hobbes.

「Guru~」

As Set gave an anxious cry, several adventurers gave him some dried meat and patted his head.

Leaving Set there, Rei headed straight to Hobbes, the person in question, Hobbes, also came to meet Rei.

「Rei, you're back.」

「Ah.」

「How was the scouting?」



「I've roughly seen everything.」

「I understand. When you returned, I had already notified the party leaders to group. Please come.」

So informed, Rei followed Hobbes who went ahead. Though Hobbes felt his appearance was somewhat strange, he judged the top priority was to hear the results of the scouting and went to the tent for the meeting without saying anything.

As Hobbes had said, the party leaders had all gathered, they all gave a sigh of relief upon seeing the safe appearance of Rei.

Seryl, who was aiming for the Misty Ring, was the same. However, regarding Seryl, it was a sigh of relief that her prey hadn't blundered on the scouting mission and had been killed by the Orcs.

Seeing Rei sit down, Hobbes started to speak.

「Well, Rei. Please report on the results of scouting at once.」

「Ah. First of all, the number of Orcs, the original 50 that we assumed has been greatly exceeded. There's probably 100.」

100. The cheeks of the party leaders cramped the moment those words were said.

As they had joined the subjugation force to fight 50, it was no wonder.

「Calm down! I would like to say this first. The number of 50 was the lowest estimate. It was expected that the numbers would be greater.」

「However, I never hear that the number would be doubled. Can't we decide to return to the city?」

「.....And overlook the damage of the Orcs to the city of Gimuru?」

「That's.....」

The person who advised withdrawing didn't persist strongly when it was said that damage would be done to the city of Gimuru if they retreated here. Even if that person didn't have friends in the city of Gimuru, they had acquaintances. If it was said that they might end up as victims of Orcs, they wouldn't retreat.

「At the same time, though there might be more Orcs than expected, as a result, they haven't finished building the village. The East side is almost

untouched. However, I have confirmed the presence of sentries instead. 」

「I see, the East side is undermanned. That's good information. I will reference that for the night attack.」

「As you want. Also, there were Orcs double the size of normal Orcs who were wearing armour.」

「.....Those are Orc Generals. That's one of the high ranking Orc species.」

「Others had bows, several with canes were also confirmed. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to find the individual leading the Orcs.....but because there was a building built better than the others in the center of the village, it might be there.」

「Orc Archers and Orc Mages.....the center of the village.」

「Ah. ....As well as that, there's one last thing. There is a shack to the north of the village, and I have confirmed there are humans there.」

Humans in an Orc village. The others that heard it had their faces stiffen, Hobbes opened his mouth to speak.

「That's.....a woman, is it?」

「Ah. I think the Orcs go there to breed. Though when I last saw they still looked alive.....」

「I see. ....Did you notice anything else?」

「No. That is all.」

「I see, I understand. Then please rest until night. I'll explain the strategy at dinner.」

Giving a small nod to Hobbes' words, he left the tent.

Several hours remained before the night attack. Everyone started their combat preparations.

# Chapter 31

Clouds appeared at night, blocking the moonlight. Ideal for a night attack. Each member of the Orc subjugation force moved to their respective positions under the cover of darkness.

Around the Orc village, to the north, north east, east, south east, south, south west, west and north west, each party located themselves at their positions.

From the strategy explained by Hobbes, firstly, as the village hadn't finished construction, the Axe of the Thunder God would gather their forces by making a flashy attack from the east. The other parties would come in once Orc reinforcements went to the east and the defenses weakened, that was the plan.

Naturally, as the Axe of the Thunder God would be the ones to attack first, the general consensus was that the battle would be fiercest there as the Orcs gathered. Elk, who led the Axe of the Thunder God said,『Believe in us, we're an A rank party』, with that, the other parties all consented. It could be said that getting everyone's consent with a single sentence was proof that his experience and track record could be trusted.

Rei, with Set's mobility as a Griffon, was placed in charge of guerrilla attacks and wasn't placed at any of the eight locations.

「Set, it's about time. Are you ready?」  
「Guru~」

In the darkness, Set gave a short cry as the dim moonlight, due to the clouds, exposed his body.

At first, since a Griffon has the upper body of an Eagle, shouldn't it have poor night vision? Was Rei's thoughts, but after spending a night in the Forest of Monsters, it was found that there wasn't any problems.

TL Note: For those that don't know, Eagles have poor night vision.

「Orcs, your lives end today. Disappear and become food for Set and I.」

With Rei's mutter, almost simultaneously, several lightning bolts rained down

on the Eastern part of the Orc village. It was the magic of Min, the mage of Axe of the Thunder God.

「It has begun. Set, Our main aim isn't the high ranking Orc Mages, Archers or Generals. Our top priority is the individual leading the Orcs.」

「Gururu~!」

On the ground, a group of Orcs could be seen heading East, organized roughly due to the panic at the sudden raid. And, taking that chance, the other parties attacked the Orcs from behind, invaded the Orc village from various locations and headed towards the East.

While seeing the action from the sky, he looked for the appearance of his target.....

「There!」

Rei's eyes discovered 5 Orc Archers drawing their bows fully back to attack an adventurer party they had discovered to the south west. Due to the fact that the surprise attack was carried out at night, even the adventurers hadn't noticed that they had been targeted by the bows.

「Set!」

「Gururu~!」

To Rei's sharp shout, Set also gave a sharp cry as he dived to the ground. This state was reminiscent of Raptors aiming at their prey.

The arrows shot by the Orc Archers hit the man at the back of the adventurer party, penetrating through his left leg, body and his right arm. However, he could be considered fortunate, the two remaining arrows pierced the ground away from the adventurer. The adventurer hit by the three arrows fell to the ground, his friends dragged him towards cover in a panic. The Orc Archers seemed to be dissatisfied that they hadn't killed anyone and shot a large number of arrows at where the adventurers had taken cover.

The leader of the archers searched for his prey, he fired arrows at different locations from time to time, trying to locate the position of the hidden target.

Because this was the Orcs' village, they had the home ground advantage. Not using it would greatly reduce the Orcs' combat ability. Using this area could be

considered proof that there were high ranking Orc species.

However, the difficulty of getting close to archers corresponded to their weakness in close combat. Therefore.

「Haah!」

Jumping from the diving Set, Rei poured magic power into the Death Scythe and swung down. The Orc he was aiming for was split in two like a piece of bamboo. Without realising what had happened, the body fell to the left and right separately. With a gusha~ sound, the freshly cut internals of the Orc spilled out of the body and splattered onto the ground.

In addition, Set, who had been diving, swung his claws and crushed the head of an Orc Archer with his momentum.

Rei gave a quick glance and saw the Orc Archer's head fall with a dosha~ sound as the body fell to the ground. Swinging the Death Scythe up from below, he targeted an Orc Archer that hadn't comprehended what was happening.

At the same time, Set, who had landed on the ground, pecked out the throat of an Orc, and the next moment, use his front claws to cleave the body.

「Bumoo~!?!」

The remaining Orc Archer finally realised that they had come under attack. However, he was only able to raise a confused voice. The next moment, his head fell to the ground with his neck neatly separated by the swinging Death Scythe. Several seconds later, the body of the Orc Archer collapsed to the ground with blood gushing out the neck, as if noticing the head was gone.

「Set, are there any more?」

「Gururu~」

Though Rei called out to Set to check for enemies in the surroundings, Set shook his head side to side. Judging that the Orc Archers here had been dealt with, he quickly stored the bodies, bows and arrows of the Orc Archers into the Misty Ring.

「Rei, is it? Thanks for saving us.」

As he finished storing everything, a member of the Orc subjugation force

called out to him, it was the leader of the party that had been attacked earlier by the Orc Archers.

Because they had been locked down by the Orc Archers and couldn't move, they were planning to move out once the attack of arrows had subsided. Following behind the leader was a typical warrior equipped with a sword and leather armour.

「Where's the other person?」

「He's treating the guy hit by the archers.」

「Are the potions enough?」

「Ahh, the supplies we received are sufficient for now.」

As for the health and mana potions that he had brought in the Misty Ring, he had distributed them to each party during the evening. That person was probably being treated with them.

「What happened to the corpses of the Orc Archers?」

The warrior behind the leader asked curiously. It would be strange if there were no corpses if the monsters were defeated.

「I've already stored it into the item box. It's a high ranking species of Orc. It's better to prevent disputes in future.」

「Well, that's true.」

The warrior nodded, agreeing with the leader.

「Then, I'll be returning to the sky as a guerrilla unit to check the state of the other parties.」

「Ah, I understand. Thanks for saving us.」

「Don't mind it, this is my job.」

He replied lightly to the leader before getting on Set's back.

「Set.」

「Guru~!」

With a run up of a few steps and a flap of his wings, Set kicked against the air as he rose into the sky.

「It seems to have become very noisy.」

「Guru～」

What Rei saw as he rose into the sky were flames burning in several places in the village. Someone may have used fire magic which then spread to the Orc buildings. And with the light, it was possible for Rei to grasp what was happening on the battlefield.

「Hm?」

As Rei observed the ground lit up by the light source, he noticed an adventurer party heading to the shack in the North.

They might be going to help the woman he saw during scouting who was caught by the Orcs for breeding.

However, bad luck for them, they ran into Orcs who were just leaving the shack. Naturally, a fight occurred.

The adventurer party in charge of the northern side had 3 people. They were against 5 Orcs. One of the Orcs was bigger than the other and was wearing armour. It was a high ranking species, Orc General.

「It seems I can't abandon them.」

It was a fact that he was still angry from appearance of the Orcs he had seen during the day. It was good to be able to vent his anger.

Rei determined this and directed Set to the next fight with a belligerent smile.

「Set, next is there.」

「Guru~!」

Following Rei's words, Set dived towards the 3 v 5 fight they had seen just before. Rei jumped off Set's back when their altitude had dropped to 10m above ground and activated the Shoes of Sleipnir to walk on the air preparing the Death Scythe and dropping towards the Orc General who was commanding the other 4 Orcs.

「Bumo~!?!」

As expected of a high rank species, the Orc General noticed something approaching from the sounds Rei made as he descended, he raised the large sword at his waist above his head by reflex.

Normally, that would have been sufficient. It was no joke to say that the sword of the Orc General that Rei was targeting was the size of a great sword. It should have been able to block the average weapon. But.....

「Don't think you can block my attack!」

The Death Scythe was swung down. Death Scythe. It was a magic item created as a by product of Rei vast magic power during the activation of the Magic Beast Art. Aside from raising its sharpness by magic power, the Death Scythe that exceeds a 100kg in weight, felt like a pair of chopsticks in his hands. A scythe weighing over a 100kg with its sharpness increased by magic power. What happens when such a weapon strikes a great sword that isn't a magic item? The answer was in front of Rei's eyes.

The Death Scythe was swung down, cutting through the Orc General's raised great sword without any resistance, cutting through the helmet that seemed to be made out of some monster skin, through the head, body and armour before it slammed against the ground, blowing a great cloud of dust with a roaring sound as it created a 2m radius crater.

「Bumoo~!?!」

The Orcs that turned around due to the sound saw the appearance of their commander falling left and right with his armour split in two in the crater.

And Set, who followed Rei and dropped from the sky, didn't miss the chance of the Orc frozen in surprise. With the speed from diving, wielding his claws in the same manner as the surprise attack against the Orc Archer from before, Set crushed the head of an Orc.

「Now, do it!」

To Rei's sharp shout, the adventurers pulled themselves together and attacked the Orcs who were looking at Rei from behind.

The vanguards held a sword and spear. The adventurer at the back shot an arrow as a sword swung down at the back of the head of an Orc, killing it instantly. Arrows shot by the archer pierced into the back of an Orc consecutively. Thrust with all his power, the Orc that withstood the pain had its head destroyed by a spear to the back of its head.



「Bumo~!」

Their leader, the Orc General, was killed and a monster, Griffon, attacked them. The humans they were fighting just before stabbed them from behind and finally he was the only one remaining. The Orc understood that and judged that he had no chance of winning even if he fought. Without even the pretense of fighting, he threw his sword at Rei before running away at full speed.

Though the adventurers tried to chase the Orc, Rei, who had cut the discarded sword with the Death Scythe, stopped them.

「Leave it alone.」

「But why! That's an Orc!」

To the voice of the adventurer with the spear, Rei had a ferocious smile. The adventurers who saw it sensed a great pressure for a moment, but they still looked at Rei as they wanted to know why he left the Orc.

「At any rate, all the Orc in the village are going to die tonight. The only difference is sooner or later.」

To those words, the adventurers fell silent under Rei's pressure.

「And your goal isn't to kill that Orc, it's to release the woman held in the shack isn't it?」

「.....Ahh. That's certainly right.」

The man with the sword nodded. When looking at his face, he was one of the people in the meeting with Hobbes. He was probably the leader of this party.

「Then, I'll leave the shack to you. Evacuate them to Hobbes. As far as I could see from above, there aren't any enemies in the area. I'll deal with the Orcs here until you return.」

「Sorry, I'm relying on you.」

The 3 people bowed before heading to the small shack. While watching their backs, Rei reflexively let out a sigh.

Originally, he had planned to rescue the woman caught in the shack after the subjugation of the Orcs had been completed. However, when they saw the village burning, the 3 people judged that it would be dangerous to leave it until

then. And the Orcs still had the intelligence to take group action. It would have been troublesome if they decided to take a hostage in an emergency.

With Set watching the surroundings, the men appeared from the hut after a few minutes.

There were two women with them. The woman Rei saw during the daytime was limping but still managed to walk on her feet. However, the other one was already unable to stand and was carried on the back of the man with the spear.

「So for a little while, I'll be relying on you. Come back as soon as possible.」  
「Ah.」

Exchanging a few short words with the party leader, Rei and Set saw the three people head out of the village.

## Chapter 32

After Rei saw off the party of 3 that had rescued the 2 women caught in the Orc village, he stored the corpses of the Orc General he defeated and the Orc whose head Set crushed into the Misty Ring. As for the two Orcs that the other 3 adventurers had defeated previously, as he didn't want to take the Orcs that other adventurers had defeated and left them as they were. He would only take his own kills. Anyway, as the other 3 people would come back immediately, he judged that there wouldn't be a problem.

「Guru～」

Seeing flames rising in many parts of the village, Set gave a small, vigilant cry

Rei lightly patted his back, turning his eyes to the darkness and casually readying the Death Scythe.

「Bumo~!？」

An arrow was shot from the darkness and was casually cut down, an Orc Archer raised a voice of confusion.....the next moment, before he was aware, Rei was in front of him swinging down the Death Scythe, his skull was split and he died.

「Did it get separated from the rest of the Orcs？」

While thinking about this, Rei stored the corpse of the Orc Archer into the Misty Ring.

Currently, Rei and Set's location was North of the village, aside from the shack where the female humans had been captured for the Orcs breeding, there was only a small hut for Orc guards. Even though there was a guard hut, it was silent as they seemed to have been sent to the East where Axe of the Thunder God had caused a commotion. As for the shack where the women had been confined, Rei doubted that an Orc would come to embrace a woman while a night attack was occurring.....

「Did I underestimate the sexual desire of the Orcs? Or.....」

On one hand, it might have been an individual action taken by the Orc Archer. If it were a normal Orc that is, but because an Orc Archer is a high ranking species, he thought in his mind that there could be another possibility.

(Anyway, I've obtained the magic stones of the high ranking Orc Archer and Orc General. However, considering Set and the Death Scythe, I would like to obtain one more Orc General magic stone to share.....it would be best if I can find a magic stone from an Orc Mage. At the same time, there's the magic stone of the guy leading the Orcs.)

Muttering to himself, he was cautious of the surrounding sounds. Metallic clashes from swords, angry voices, curses, and explosions that could be heard from around the village. Fortunately, the Orc Archer was the only one which had taken independent action, the rest of the Orcs had headed East, where the main battlefield was, none of them went North to where Rei was.

About 10 minutes later, the party of 3 finally came back.

「We're sorry, did we keep you waiting?」

The swordsman who was the party leader asked, Rei shook his head.

「No, you were faster than I thought. How were the captured women?」

「They've been sent to where Hobbes is. ....It's at these times that adventurers should be providing mental relief to the women.....it's irritating.」

TLN: He's irritated in the sense that he can't do more.

Even if you said that Hobbes was a retired adventurer, he still boasted decent strength. Therefore, Hobbes stayed back at the field headquarters during the night attack without any guards. At first, several adventurers were going to guard him, however Hobbes insisted that they should maximise their combat force as the number of Orcs was greater than expected, with that it was accepted.

「Anyway, I'll leave the Northern attack to you. Set and I will return to the sky for guerrilla attacks.」

「Ahh, thanks for saving us.」

While hearing the voice of thanks, Rei got onto Set's back.....then suddenly turned to face the leader.

「I forgot to say, the bodies of the two Orcs you defeated are over there. I've collected the Orc and Orc General that Set and I defeated, is that okay?」

At those words, he glanced at the bodies of the two Orcs and gave a small nod.

「Ah. No Problem. Are the bodies of the Orcs in the item box?」

「That is so. Then, I will be leaving. Set!」

「Gururururu~!」

Giving a sharp cry at Rei's voice, Set rose into the sky after a run up of a few steps and a flap of his wings. The 3 adventurers who saw the person and animal leave, went to the bodies of the Orcs that had fallen. Rei and Set advanced to the center of the village where more Orcs had gathered, seeking their next prey.

「The battle situation is even.....is it.」

Riding on Set, Rei directed his eyes to the ground while flying through the sky.

While a substantial part of the village was in flames, a large number of Orcs could still be seen heading East.

Because it was the place where the fighting first started, all the attention of the Orcs was gathered there.

In Rei's vision, Elk was swinging his huge battle axe cleaving through several Orcs. At the same time, a large amount of ice was shot from Min's cane, slowly accumulating damage on a large number of Orcs with the bombardment.

Rhodes defended Min. Though several Orcs attacked Min, trying to crush the long range mage first, Rhodes intercepted them with his sword, dodging and evading their attacks. Taking advantage of a missed attack, he did a quick strike, sinking the Orc into a pool of blood.

「I see. So that's a C rank adventurer. 」

Looking at the situation, Rei muttered impressed. However, his eyes turned to an area a bit away from the village immediately. Maybe intending to attack the Axe of the Thunder God from the rear, several Orcs had taken a detour from the village to sneak around to the back.

And conveniently, the Orcs were led by an Orc with a cane.

「I've finally found an Orc Mage at last. As expected of an Orc Mage, it's leading the Orcs around it.」

Even if you said that Axe of the Thunder God was an A rank party, when fighting Orcs from the front and behind.....it's clear that they would take a considerable amount of damage if they were to be hit with a surprise attack with magic. Because the person furthest back was the mage, Min, her low physical defense can be imagined.

「Set!」

「Gururu~!」

Giving a short cry at Rei's voice, Set entered his third dive.

However, as expected of the high ranking species, Orc Mage, the sound of Set's flapping wings that the Orc Archer and Orc General didn't pick up was noticed by the Orc Mage. He turned his cane to the sky and began to cast a spell.

「Ignore it, keep charging!」

「Gururu~!」

However, Rei didn't care about the Orc Mage's actions and ordered Set to charge. As for Set, with a sharp cry, he dived towards the detachment lead by the Orc Mage.

『Bumorua~!』

The Orc Mage chanted his incantation and invoked the magic. Though Rei didn't know what effect the incantation had as it was said in the Orcish language, a smile appeared on his face after a fireball the size of his head appeared in front of the Orc.

「Gururururururu~!」

Set charged while raising a courageous cry. Though the Orcs started to panic, the confusion gradually decreased after the Orc Mage gave a sharp shout and shot the fireball at Set.

The fireball that was shot went towards Set, who was diving towards the

detachment at a considerable speed.....the moment it was about to hit his body, it was blocked by something and exploded in midair.

「Bumo~!？」

The Orc Mage was surprised at the result. It was the Bracelet of Wind Manipulation that was equipped to Set's ankle, it had the ability to block a single projectile from a bow or magic spell. It's effect was exhibited. It could be said that it was a bolt from the blue for the Orc Mage.

The Orc Mage was convinced that it would have an effect, there was no way it could have been avoided at the speed Set was diving.....

「Bumooo~!」

Set's figure exceeded 2m, the Orc Mage was caught by the charge of Set's wings with the momentum of the dive and was blown 10m away, in addition, he was knocked against the ground several times like a skipping stone on water. It's neck and most of it's limbs were bent in awkward directions, it was already clear that it wasn't breathing.

And.....

『Dancing flames, dance. Light up the surroundings with your magnificent dance, burn as you dance and captivate the people.』

While chanting an incantation, around 50 human sized flames appeared. Though it was smaller than the one used in the Forest of Monsters, it was because there were less enemies.

『Dance Fire Snake!』

The moment the incantation was finished, the magic was invoked. The 50 flames moved as if they had a will of their own, crowding to the Orcs.

Confused at the unforeseen situation, they judged it was dangerous and scattered after seeing several Orc being burnt, running away in all directions. However, the flames that Rei created chased the Orcs that ran and coiled them in a scorching embrace, burning them and killing them.

「Bumoo~!？」

「Bumomo~!？」

Though each of them raised a scream, it wasn't possible to run from the burning embrace, after a few seconds, all the Orcs in the area were dead.

The surroundings were filled with the smell of burning flesh, Set looked at the surroundings with shimmering eyes.

It had been an hour since the night attack began. Though his stomach was probably empty.....

「Set, there's no time to eat now. You'll have to wait until the night attack ends.」

「Guru~.....」

While giving a saddened look, Set nodded quietly.

「I'll store the Orcs into the Misty Ring for now. Because I'll serve them after the fight is finished, endure it for a while.....okay?」

Then Rei heard footsteps coming closer. It seemed to be a single person running towards them.

「.....Is it a detachment of this detachment.....or the remnants of this detachment?」

For an instant, the appearance of the Orc Archer he fought in the North of the village crossed his mind and considering the possibility of remnants, he readied the Death Scythe.

However, the shadow of the figure illuminated from the flames in the village was a human rather than an Orc.

He lowered the Death Scythe while remaining cautious. Set also relaxed while watching at the same time.

Still, they weren't incautious as there was still the matter of Dark Night's Star.

And when the figure approached close enough that their face could be determined.....he recognised who it was.

「Rhodes, is it.」

「You, Rei.....is it?」

「Ah. I mean, who else could take the Griffon aside from me.」

「.....Ah, no. Though that's true.....did you kill these Orcs?」



Rhodes asked, directing his eyes to the Orcs that were lying on the ground, partially burnt and cooked.

Looking at the situation, Rei stored the bodies of the Orcs into the Misty Ring, one after the other.

And, approaching the Orc Mage that Set killed.

「Ah. Set killed the Orc Mage.」

Saying that, he stored the Orc Mage into the Misty Ring as well.

「.....You, have the strength to take care of all these Orc by yourself? .....No, wait. Why were the corpses burnt? Isn't your weapon that ridiculously large scythe?」

「You're the ridiculous one, making those comments.」

He placed the Death Scythe into the ground while smiling wryly.

「It certainly is my weapon. However, it's also a magic item.....at the same time, it's also a magic casting tool.」

「Magic caster? In other words.....」

「Ah. Are you used to seeing the cane Min has? It's similar to that. However, but the shape is a large scythe.」

「Then, are you a mage?」

Rei gave a small shake of his head while stroking Set's back.

「Because I can also fight in close combat, if anything, I'm a magic warrior. So, what are you doing here?」

「Magic warrior.....ah, no. When fighting with my mum and dad on the East side of the village, a large amount of flames were seen behind us. So my mum asked me to check out the situation.」

「I see. Well, it's no wonder as you have to consider the possibility of being attacked from behind with the low physical defense of a mage. In fact, these Orcs were trying to sneak to the rear.」

「.....It's seems so. So, you saw them from above and made a surprise attack on them instead.」

「.....」

Listening to Rhodes words, Rei stared at his face unintentionally.

「What.」

「Nothing, you can make a rational judgement on the spot, I'm impressed.」

「Oi, are you trying to start a fight.」

「Such words, I'll tell you about what I did later. Set!」

「Guru~」

Set gave a short cry as Rei got on his back.

「Oi!」

「We'll talk when I get back. You might also want to return to where Elk and Min are. The fight with the Orcs is still going on.」

「I know. Remember now, you're going to tell me the whole story when this fight ends! Remember! Don't die without my permission!」

While smiling at at Rhode's increasingly vehement words, Rei returned to the skies above the village with Set.

However, he noticed something as he glanced around.

(This.....I see, it's the party Dark Night's Star. I was wondering what they were up to, they're here. Even though it's possible to go out and fight the Orcs, it's troubling if I only clean up.)

Looking at the Orc village from the sky, he could see an area where there was no fire and the adventurers and Orcs were in a stalemate.

# Chapter 33

Northwest of the Orc village. The 4 members of Dark Night's Star were fighting against the Orcs.

「Bumoo~!」

Blocking the Orc's sword with a shield, a stab was sent out, piercing the Orc's throat.

The Orc, who's throat was pierced, fell to the ground with it's neck partially severed.

「Seriously, there's no end. Al, Sunyi, it's safe!」

Swinging the sword that cut the throat of the Orc to get rid of the blood and flesh that was stuck to the tip, Seryl called out to two people nearby.

「I'm still okay.」

「No problems here either.....Sis, two Orcs ahead!」

While getting Seryl's attention, she pulled her bow back and shot an arrow.

「Bugi~!?!」

An Orc that had approached under the cover of darkness was pierced by several arrows, shot in quick succession by Sunyi.

「Anyway, the first attack was in the east, so not many Orc will come to the north west area we're in charge of. Al, you can deal with the Orc with the arrows.」

「I understand!」

Ordinary Orcs are basically not equipped with protective gear like armour. Though it's not that difficult to obtain armour, the biggest reason was the Orc's body. They had muscles with strength several times of a normal person. They also had a thick layer of fat covering them. Let alone an ordinary sword, it's difficult to pierce through the fat even if they were stabbed with a spear.

It was similar with Sunyi's arrows. At first glance, the Orc that had been struck by a large amount of arrows may look like it had been turned into a hedgehog,

but the arrows had been stopped at the fat and hadn't done any fatal damage.

However, the arrows that had pierced it's body would become an obstruction to movement, making it unable to move for a moment.

「Go to hell, you fake pig!」

Finding a chance to strike, Al put his weight behind his bastard sword and hammered in a blow to the body of the Orc.

「Bumoo~」

Though the Orc tried to block the sword from hitting it, the arrows prevented it from moving and his body received a deep cut.

Rather than a cut it, it was more of a chop, the Orc that had lost the lower half of his body, fell to the ground silently, blood and entrails spilling on to the ground.

「Haa, haa, haa」

Al, who took down the Orc, stabbed his sword into the ground to support his body, he started to fix his rough breathing.

Al was originally a D rank adventurer, against the D rank monster Orc, he had the ability to fight one on his own, one way or another. However, that's merely a 1 on 1, if it was repeated battles, naturally, his physical strength would be drained.

「Sister, shouldn't we take a break?」

Sunyi saw Al's state and advised Seryl, Seryl knit her eyebrows and quickly pierced the head of the remaining Orc.

Though her breathing rate had gone up, she still had strength to spare, showing the difference in ability between the C rank Seryl and the D rank Al.

「Yeah. Al's having a little difficulty.....even then, it's hard to find that rookie among the crowd of Orcs. Any reports from Murgas?」

Sunyi shook her head at Seryl's words.

Murgas was literally running around the village at this time, looking for the appearance of Rei. Though Murgas was a coward, with Seryl's threats, Al's

soothing and Sunyi's persuasion, he agreed to do it this once, in other words, finding Rei's mobile unit in the Orc village once the night attack started, if things went well, the only thing they had to do was to steal the item box. But they couldn't launch a surprise attack, they could only move when they knew where Rei was, Seryl thought. Because of that, they were unwillingly fighting Orcs here.

After all, it should have been much easier as the main combat force was focused on the East of the village, in the opposite direction of where they were. And yet, they were attacked by a considerable number of Orcs for some reason. Because of that, they had their hands full with the situation.

In fact, there was a problem with the party composition of Dark Star. Though they were originally a 4 person party, without Murgas, the thief, they only had 3 people. Two of them were women. Seryl was in her 30's and Sunyi was in her 20's, they could be said to be at a woman's prime. Naturally, they stimulated the sexual desire of the Orcs that saw their appearance. After all, since the village was established, they only had two human women for breeding, which they encountered while moving.

As a result, several Orcs went against the order of the high ranking species and attacked Dark Night's Star. Other Orcs who found the friends fighting Dark Night's Star also followed their sexual desires.....leading to the current situation.

「It can't be helped. We'll hide from the Orcs in that ragged hut. Al should fix his breathing.」

「Haa, haa, haa. ....I-I'm sorry.」

「Look, seriously. It's because you have so much trouble with things like Orcs that you're still a D rank.」

Seryl covered Al, who was dragging his feet, to an Orc building which hadn't caught fire. Sunyi followed at the rear, keeping watch of the surroundings. And at last, the three people were able to take a break.

「Really, those Orcs are really bothersome aren't they. If only they didn't come here in such large numbers, this time we might be able to find that rookie.」

「Big sis, shouldn't we postpone taking the item box for now and focus on the

Orc subjugation quest?」

Al, who finally fixed his breath, called out to Seryl, however, he was met with scowling eyes.

「Oh, Al. Do you have a complaint with what I'm doing?」

「No, but why not? What if in the off chance we're caught by an Orc halfway through fighting?」

「Hmph, we'll escape straight to the Imperial Capital after stealing the item box. I don't care what happens to the city of Gimuru.」

At this time, ignoring Al, Seryl was also quite fatigued. She had fought Orcs with eyes looking at her with sexual desire for too long. Even if she was a C rank adventurer, the mental fatigue had piled up. Because of that, she had carelessly revealed her true intentions.

「Big sis, now what?」

Al asked Seryl in a slightly low voice.

「Ah? What I said about the city of Gimuru? I meant what I said. Why would you even care about the city of Gimuru when we get to the Imperial Capital after this is done? I said this before, but knights from the Imperial Capital will come if this subjugation force is defeated. Though there might be some damage, it will be resolved somehow.」

「.....Certainly, but that might not be so.....」

As Al was starting to become more vehement, Sunyi, who was watching from the table, gave a short cry.

「Big sis, Murgas is back.」

「Really! Right, keep watch Sunyi. I want to hear the news when Murgas comes in. Al, the talk with you will be postponed. Obey my orders for now.」

「.....Ah.」

Al gave a reluctant nod as Murgas simultaneously entered the building.

「Big sis, sorry to keep you waiting.」

「Seriously, I've been waiting a while. So, have you found the rookie?」

「Yes, somehow. As he's a guerrilla unit, he comes down to fight the Orcs. He defeated some Orcs which were sneaking round to the rear of Axe of the

Thunder God in the East a little while ago. Though the group was lead by an Orc Mage, it was blown away by the Griffon.」

Seryl frowned her eyebrows at those words. Because Seryl's group was aiming for the item box, naturally, they wanted Rei in the same group as them. This was because the surprise attack could then be carried out at any time. However, because they had said that the Griffon couldn't be relied on during the previous night, Rei ended up becoming a mobile unit.

.....Moreover, several other adventurer parties had wanted Rei to be a mobile unit while a member that had fed Set, made a direct appeal to Hobbes for Rei to work with them

「So, is the rookie still at the East, behind Axe of the Thunder God?」

If that was so, it would be difficult to attack, but as Seryl was thinking so, Murgas gave an unexpected reply.

「About that, he seems to be tired out from the continuous fighting and came down to take a break where the fire hasn't spread. I thought that we maybe able to attack, which is why I returned.」

「.....Heh. In a place that the fire hasn't spread. By the way, are there any Orcs or subjugation force members in the vicinity?」

「There's no problem there. There are no subjugation force members close to the rookie and I only saw a few Orcs on the way back.」

「Then, how about the Griffon?」

After all, the most difficult thing to deal with when attacking Rei was the Griffon. Even if the members of Dark Night's Star, including herself, went all out, Seryl didn't feel that there was even the smallest chance of beating the Griffon in a fight.

However, the answer from Murgas was also unexpected.

「About that, it seems he let the Griffon return to the sky as a guerrilla unit. That's why I returned now.」

「.....I see, it surely is a clear once in a lifetime chance. While he's taking a break, he leaves the guerrilla attacks to the Griffon to keep acquiring achievements. He's an idiot. He'll lose his life from being too greedy.」

TL Note: -\_—

Grinning, a smile floated onto her face as she thought about managing her future. She quickly settled down and spoke up.

「Listen up, first, we'll all attack the rookie. However, Sunyi will strike preemptively with arrows. Though if possible, aim for the head to kill him instantly, I don't mind if you hit the body or limbs either.」

「Big sis, are you making light of my weapon? The rookie only just registered with the guild, I'll take him out in one shot.」

While Sunyi, who was standing at the entrance, puffed up her cheeks to complain, Seryl gave a small shake of her head.

「You seem to have forgotten, the rookie has the ability to defeat the Claws of the Hawk by himself. Being careless is a mistake.」

「.....I understand.」

「Good girl. So, when we confirm Sunyi has hit with the arrow, we all dash in and attack. Kill him there if possible. If it takes some time, Hobbes will know we've moved.」

「So, the Imperial Capital after that?」

「Ah. Because the carriages and warhorses are gathered with Hobbes, if possible, Murgas and Sunyi will grab four warhorses without being noticed. At the very least we need 2. Warhorses won't collapse on the way and we can run full speed to the capital after that. ....Well, if we can take a warhorse then we won't have to worry about pursuers for a while, though we'll likely have to substitute horses in an emergency.....indeed, it will be impossible for Hobbes to not miss us.」

「Though we'll be able to get to the Imperial Capital in a few days, what about food?」

「There's enough in the item box. If there's no food in it, we can sell off items in it in villages along the way and buy food with the money.」

「Sister, even if we can get to the Imperial Capital, do we have the connections to sell off the item box?」

To Sunyi's voice, which came from the entrance, Seryl nodded with a smile.

「Ah. I was previously in the care of of a person in the city of Gimuru who was



in an organization related to that. Naturally, I know his address.」

「Right, big sis. Then we'll carry out the surprise attack on the rook before he finishes his break.」

「Ah. Murgas, we'll need you to guide us. As for Al and Sunyi, don't get found by the Orcs.」

Thus, Dark Night's Star's once in a lifetime gamble was started this night.

Moreover, it was a gamble that Seryl had recognised as already won.

In this case, if Murgas had told Seryl there was a possibility he could use magic, the result of Dark Night's Star's attack might have been different. However, Murgas didn't have any information that Rei could use magic at all, he hardly knew the ecology of a Griffon either and thought that it might have been the peculiar ability of the Griffon to burn all the Orcs except the Orc Mage.

There was a place in the Orc village with a single person. Rei took a break at a place where the fire hadn't spread. ....Even if it was barely, he disguised himself to look as if he was taking a break. That was correct.

The figure of Set couldn't be seen nearby either. Though the purpose was to trap Dark Night's Star, who were aiming for him, he couldn't neglect the guerrilla attacks for the other fights occurring in the Orc settlement.

(In addition, I can't overlook the chance to make contributions to the guild.)

Rei murmured in his mind. Speaking only in this regard, Seryl's thoughts were correct.

And.....

(They've finally appeared)

He had a chiri~ chiri~ feeling. It was the same feeling he had when fighting the Queen Ant and Goblin rare, however, the monsters gave a much purer feeling, the feeling he had right now was clouded with greed. That is.....blood lust.

Subtly putting strength into the Death Scythe he was holding, he made his preparations inside the Dragon Robe so to not be seen and readied himself to fight back at any time.

Though they had moved so as to not be found by Rei, his five senses exceeded

that of an ordinary person and could hear the sounds of Dark Night's Star encircling him, with his 6th sense, he could also roughly feel the blood lust.

And he heard a kiri~ kiri~ sound, the sound of a bow drawn to its full extent.

(I see. It's a preemptive strike with the bow. Then.....)

Thinking out a plan to deal with the fools attacking him.....the next moment, the arrow was fired!

# Chapter 34

At the back of the Orc hut, they were attacking a man, who seemed to be taking a break, without alarming him. Sunyi drew her bow to the fullest while aiming at the man.

(In the end, his ability is only to tame a Griffon. Though there's a bow aimed at him, he can't even feel the blood lust. Really, Al worries too much.)

Completing her preparations to shoot at any time, she turned her eyes to Seryl, who was on the roof of the building opposite.

Catching Sunyi's glance, Seryl gave a small nod. Al and Murgas signaled that they were ready as well.

(Rookie-chan, you can only have a grudge against yourself for owning a rare magic item you don't deserve. We'll sell off the item box to provide for our living.....right!)

Holding her breath, she took aim and released the arrow from her hands, the arrow shot from the bow cut through the air, the next moment it tore towards the target who seemed to be resting. As it hit the body, Rei fell to the ground without a sound.

「Right, everyone attack!」

Seryl's voice echoed at the same time. At that voice, Al and Murgas jumped out from the darkness with their bastard sword and dagger. Seryl also jumped from the roof, casually, holding a long sword and shield.

While checking the states of her three companions, Sunyi drew her bow again in case of an unforeseen event.

The moment the arrow aimed at him a distance away was fired, Rei's eyes captured the arrow.

Though he thought of evading it or cutting it down with the Death Scythe if it was aimed for his head, the arrow was targeted at his body. It was probably aimed there as they judged it would be easier to target. Though the arrow shot

at his right side was blocked by the Dragon Robe, he pretended to fall to the ground.

The next moment, he heard Seryl's voice from the top of the opposite building as well as the sounds of two more people. Including Seryl, the footsteps of 3 people approached him.

(According to the information from Hobbes and Elk, Dark Night's Star should be a party of 4. An archer, 2 warriors and a thief. In this case, the archer is the most troublesome as it's a long range attacker, fortunately, it doesn't have enough power to pierce the Dragon Robe. The next most troublesome would be the thief as he can hide in the dark.

While listening to the three footsteps coming closer to him, he looked for the thief's position.

There was a slight difference in footsteps between a warrior and thief due to the weight of the equipment they carried. He listened.

(Left, is it?)

Seryl was at the front. Judging from the foot steps and speed, the other warrior of Dark Night's Star who wore heavier equipment, Al, was at the right. He firmly gripped the Death Scythe that he had held onto as he had fallen.

Naturally, there was a difference in speed between a warrior and a thief, the first to reach him was Murgas who wore light armour, the thief of Dark Night's Star.

「Murgas, how is it? Was he killed neatly with Sunyi's arrow?」

Seryl's voice was a bit further away. Rei heard the footsteps near slowly.

「Wait a moment big sis. I'll check now.」

Hehe, he grinned and smiled in his heart as he heard the footsteps approach.

Originally, the best way to check if the other party was alive or dead would be to throw a stone or dagger at it to see the reaction. In fact, if they did throw a stone or dagger at his head, he wouldn't be able to counterattack immediately, but maybe Murgas didn't have a spare weapon, or maybe he found it too troublesome, he just approached Rei cautiously. And.....

(Now!)

Rei judged that Murgas had entered his attack range and acted quickly. He grasped the Death Scythe that had fallen to the ground when he fell and made a sweeping attack. Because he had attacked without putting in any magic power, his attack wasn't anticipated. The Death Scythe cut through the flesh with ease and the bone with a bit of pressure, cutting off both of Murgas's ankles.

「.....Eh? Ah, ah, ah.....Gyaaaaaaaaa~! Ah, my legs, my feet are, aaahh~!」

For an instant, he couldn't believe he was attacked. Speaking while seemingly preoccupied, Murgas collapsed to the ground as he couldn't stand without both ankles. He screamed while lying on the ground as the intense pain hit him a few seconds after the attack.

「Tch, he's still alive. Al, let's go. This is his final resistance anyway. Sunyi, cover us with your bow!」

Seryl had thought that the only magic item Rei had was the item box, Misty Ring. The Dragon Robe that he usually wore, even if you searched the entire Mireana Kingdom.....no, not even the entirety of Elgin would have a magic item of this high quality, therefore, she thought that his attack on Murgas was a desperate attack of the verge on death after receiving a mortal wound from Sunyi's arrow.

However, maybe that wasn't unreasonable. After all, the Dragon Robe was made by Zepairu's organization, in other words, it's concealment effect was given by the greatest Alchemist of that time, Esta Nord. Others could not see its true value. At the frontier, it would be an impossible event for a rank C adventurer to see through it.

TLN: Okay, so it turns out the concealment effect of the Dragon Robe is to hide the fact that it's a magic item. Note also appended to when it was first described.

While thinking of this in a corner of his mind, Rei sprung up, using the momentum from the attack that cut Murgas' ankles. He went closer to Murgas who was rolling on the ground crying unsightly and struck with the Death Scythe in a scooping motion, cutting him in two.

「Gah~!」

He raised a small scream as his internal organs such as his stomach and intestines spilled onto the ground, the light faded from Murgas' eyes. Seeing the ankles, still in their shoes further ahead, a wry smile floated onto his face for a moment.

TLN: Well, I didn't expect Rei to have a brutal streak.

(I don't have any particular guilt even though I killed a person, it seems. Well, I'm thankful given the present situation.)

「Murgas!? Tch, he's still okay even though the arrows hit! Al, we'll do it at once!」

「Big sis!? We should retreat!」

「Don't say stupid things! It has already begun. Since it's become like this, we have to kill the rookie, if that guy gets away, the guild will give us a bounty. Be prepared for that!」

「.....Shit, I understand!」

Matching their timing, the two people swung their swords from the left and right. Rei judged that Seryl, the leader of Dark Star, was more formidable and decided to aim for Al first to decrease the number of enemies. With the handle of the Death Scythe, he swept up some of Murgas' organs which were scattered around and flicked them at Al.

「Tch!」

Al was sweeping his bastard sword from the side at that moment but was blinded by Murgas' organs coming at his face and evaded. However.....

「Fool! You're careless!」

Seryl's voice sounded through the area, but it was too late. For a bastard sword, its high power lay with its weight, However, at the same time, it was difficult to maneuver. For example, as when someone got close, as Rei did now.

As Al swung the bastard sword, he suddenly felt a wind and turned his eyes, the small figure of Rei and his robe was no longer at where he was before.

「Al, your chest!」

Seryl set her long sword towards Al while shouting, but it was too late. The huge scythe like the scythe of the Grim Reaper was about to swing down and take Al's life.

(Shit, big sis won't make it in time. My sword isn't enough.....this, ending up in a place like this!)

Because of the possibility of his own death approaching him, Al's head spun, he asked himself about the meaning of the life he had lived, regretting being cajoled by Seryl into attacking Rei.....

「Fool, don't give up!」

The moment he heard that voice, he returned to reality.

「.....What?」

It was strange, he was on the verge of dying. Yet why was he still alive? While doubting, what entered his vision were a few arrows stuck in the ground in the area where Rei and his large scythe were just before.

The moment he saw the arrows and heard the shout of 'don't give up', he realised it was Sunyi.

「Are you okay?」

The figure of Seryl appeared nearby, her sword set up to restrain Rei. Checking his surroundings, he finally realised he was still alive.

「Big sis, he's strong. It seems the Griffon isn't with him just for show.」

「It looks like it. Tch, isn't that rookie rank G? Who would think that he's so strong.」

While listening to the exchange of the 2, a smile floated onto Rei's face.

「I'm strong, is it? That's right. Although it's not much, I take pride that I have the strength to subdue a C rank monster.」

While swinging the Death Scythe, with a hyun~ hyun~ sound, at the two people before his eyes, he didn't forget to check the state of the archer, Sunyi.

Being hit by an arrow before was just part of his plan. Being able to avoid the attack demonstrated that Rei's body was close to a monster, if it were a normal person, the arrows would have hit his body without fail.

(I was surprised about that, that man called Al was clearly a decoy. When I swung the Death Scythe, I was attacked the moment I attacked. Still, he responded when she shouted out not to give up. ....I see. Trust, is it?)

After Rei participated in the subjugation quest, he was convinced that Dark Night's Star was a party made up of thugs. However, though thugs may behave as so, there was still trust between them, he understood this for the first time.

(Still, I can't be killed quietly. Their deaths were decided when the surprise attack began.)

Al, who somehow narrowly avoided death, was covered in cold sweat as he glanced at Rei. At the same time, Seryl, who was next to him, was in a similar situation. Sunyi pulled back her bow to shoot her arrows at Rei, given a chance.

He held the middle of the Death Scythe with his hands and swung it with a hyun~ hyun~ sound to restrain the enemy, he worked out a strategy against Dark Star while looking like a dance performance.

( In this case, the most troublesome aren't the two people who can fight in close combat, it's the woman called Sunyi who can support from long range.)

While brandishing the Death Scythe, Rei turned his gaze to Sunyi. On the top of the roof of an Orc house, attacks normally wouldn't reach. Even if he used fire magic, the two people, Seryl and Al, wouldn't give him a chance to say the incantation. So, there was no way to attack Sunyi. If he were a normal person..... But, Rei wasn't someone you could call a normal person.

Using the centrifugal force from swinging the Death Scythe, he scooped out the dirt and stones on the ground and flung them at the people in front of him with the handle, he then made a long jump backwards.

The next moment, he invoked the Shoes of Sleipnir while seeing arrows hit the position he was at just before.

Rei jumped to the highest point and used the Shoes of Sleipnir to step further into the air before falling.

At that moment, a few arrows flew towards Rei's feet as he began to fall. If it weren't for the Shoe of Sleipnir that let him step on the air, perhaps several of the arrows would have hit him. However, the magic item Shoes of Sleipnir



overturned Sunyi's calculations.

Sunyi saw her attack had missed and tried to to draw an arrow for her bow from her quiver in a hurry.....

「That's a shame.」

Rei was already in front of Sunyi's eyes, swinging the Death Scythe.

「-!？」

Though Sunyi tried to shout something, the magic boosted Death Scythe was swung down before the words left her mouth. The huge blade cut through Sunyi diagonally from shoulder down.....the next second, her body slid down, internal organs and blood scattering onto the roof.

『Sunyi!?!』

Though Seryl and Al, who were watching, shouted out Sunyi's name, the light had already faded from Sunyi's eyes.

「You! How dare you do that to Sunyi!」

Though Al raised a vehement shout, Rei just stared back at Al and Seryl with cold eyes.

「What, so it's acceptable for you to kill me but not okay for me to kill you? Is the fact that the person you try to kill is fighting back something bad? Or are you going to say you are the only people with the right to kill me?」

「Shut up! Get down from there now! I'll cut you down with my sword like you did to Murgas and Sunyi!」

Although Al burst out with an angry voice, Rei had no intention of coming down.

「What, even if you can take out a thief and archer, it's too hard to fight someone the same as you in close combat? If you're a man, come down and fight fairly!」

「Kuku~. Fair and square, hey. Attacking someone by surprise and 4 against 1, I can't help but laugh.....no, talent as adventurers aside, you have talent as comedians, you guys.」

「Don't joke around!」

「I'll stop, incidentally, joke asides, let me correct your joke. I'm not a warrior. It suffices to say.....I'm a 『Magic Warrior』」

「.....What?」

Ignoring Al, who unintentionally asked again in a defiant tone, Rei started an incantation.

『Flame, thou exists in my domain only and cannot in other domains. My magic power in my domain in exchange for your short life, sublimate your life for a moment.』

At the same time Rei started his incantation, a scarlet line of magic power drew and enclosed the place Al and Seryl were.

「Tch!」

Perceiving the danger of the line, Seryl escaped from the magic lines by jumping backwards. However, Al, who's rank was lower than Seryl, didn't have that judgement. No, maybe he knew but seeing his companions killed made the blood rush to his head and his crisis perception ability fell.

If had his usual carefulness, he might have felt the overwhelming presence of death approaching. However, that would be another story. Al was already surrounded by the magic lines, his fate decided.

『Dancing Wild Flame』

The incantation was completed and the magic activated. A bright, translucent, red dome covered the marked area the crimson line cut through. Al's cheeks cramped when he finally realised he was in a dangerous place.....a myriad of lizards appeared inside the crimson dome. So many that it was difficult to count, the next moment, the lizards exploded simultaneously, turning into fire. One of them exploded, turning into flames, similarly, the lizards touched by the flame exploded the same way.....so the number of flames and explosions increased like a chain reaction, the last one exploded, turning into flames and rampaging inside the dome, the scorching flame was so dazzling you couldn't open your eyes. Al was instantly burned without being able to say a word.

# Chapter 35

The translucent dome that had captured Al. Though the scorching flames rampaged inside, there wasn't any heat outside the dome. This was the magic Rei created with his own magic power to prevent the flame from spreading outside, the raging flames inside the dome couldn't influence any of the surroundings.

「.....You, what on earth.....」

She remembered how Al was burnt to ashes in a moment inside the translucent dome. In that state, Seryl reflexively muttered.

Rei replied with a faint smile on his face.

「Well, as you said, there's no mistake, I'm a G rank adventurer who just registered with the guild.」

While replying with a mutter to Seryl's words to herself, he clicked his fingers with a pachin~ sound. The next moment, the flames that had been burning brightly in the dome disappeared as if it were an illusion. As the flames all vanished, the dome faded away as well.

The only remains were the burnt, scorched ground and the half melted bastard sword that Al had used. Al's body and the leather armour he had equipped was completely burnt up, not even ashes remained.

His only reprieve was that the scorching flames that rampaged in the dome didn't let him feel the fear or pain of death, he was burnt to death instantly. Perhaps Al didn't even realise it as there wasn't any pain as he died.

「D-do.....don't joke with me! A G rank adventurer burning someone to death in an instant, moreover, how can you use such a strong magic that doesn't affect the surroundings!」

Seeing Al's death, Seryl finally understood that the person staring at her from the rooftop with a cold gaze was more than just a G rank adventurer.

The price was the death of three of her companions, the only member of Dark

Night's Star left was Seryl.

「.....I'll say this one thing because there seems to be a misunderstanding. I definitely am a G rank adventurer who just registered with the guild. That is correct. However, the magic and skills I learnt before registering with the guild don't just disappear. Your mistake was thinking that I, a rookie who just registered with the guild, had no experience in combat and magic. Information about me should have traveled around in various ways, in the end you didn't take it seriously because I was a rookie who just registered with the guild?」

Even Seryl knew that he had defeated the D rank party Claws of the Hawk by himself, she also knew that the person in front of her was followed by a Griffon, an A rank monster. Nevertheless, she had baseless confidence that she would be handle it herself. That fatal mistake had resulted in the death of all members of Dark Night's Star except herself.

「Shit, even if you say that, so what!」

Seryl spat out while giving a sharp glare at Rei and clenching her teeth. However, Rei ignored her words and jumped with a ton~ sound from the roof to the ground.

When he landed on the ground, he didn't make a sound, it was something that couldn't be said a G rank adventurer could do.

「By the way, I'm not nice enough to let you die in peace.」

While brandishing the Death Scythe with a hyun~ hyun~ sound, he kept his eyes fixed on Seryl.

(Since she knows the power of my magic, if I try to use it again, she won't hesitate to run away. If possible, I wanted to finish her and the man named Al in one blow before.....well, even if she's corrupt, she's still a C rank adventurer.

Rei watched Seryl with his eyes while waiting for a chance to finish her off.

While Seryl understood that Rei was slowly waiting for a chance to kill her, she had seen Rei's power and instead of trying to run away again and showing her back, she gradually retreated.

However, naturally, she couldn't keep evading like that forever, before long,

Seryl's back hit a building that seemed to be an Orc's house.

Rei saw that and started to speak while smiling.

「Now then, I suppose that's enough time. I have to cover the other parties that are participating in the night attack. I have to finish this soon.....you don't mind?」

Suddenly stopping the Death Scythe he had been swinging around, he pointed the tip at Seryl and asked.

「.....Looking at my current situation, it certainly would be difficult for me to defeat you. But you know, I can't fall silent just because of this. Now that it's come down to this, I have to get through no matter what!」

Maybe she thought other adventurers would come if she delayed long enough, she gave a shout and steeled herself before throwing the shield in her left hand at Rei's face.

「Is her intention to blind me?」

Muttering about the trivial matter, Rei poured magic power into the Death Scythe and struck out. The Death Scythe, which had its sharpness increased by magic, split the shield that Seryl had thrown in two without any resistance.

However, as for Seryl, seeing Murgas and Sunyi's last moments, she knew the shield had no use and threw it away. Still, having done that, she felt that it was good if she could blind Rei for a moment. The reason it was good was because she wanted to strike Rei with an attack.

If she had ran the moment the shield had blinded him, she might have gotten away if she was lucky. However, she judged that it was too difficult and decide to wound him so that he couldn't chase, it was an attack that held Seryl's fate.

「Haaaaatsu~!」

Raising a shout, she aimed for the body. The head was a small target and it was likely she would be hit by the scythe if she aimed at an arm as she couldn't cut off both arms at the same time. With that, the body was left. If it went well, she could land a serious injury, it would then become difficult to chase after her on foot. And it was the body that Seryl targeted. Though there was also a

possibility of damaging his internals if it went well, the biggest reason was the size of the target. Thinking of Rei's movements, she judged that even if she aimed at his feet, he would probably evade it. As for the center of the body, it was the hardest place to evade an attack.

With that, she bet everything on this single blow, even a cornered rat would bite a cat. The attack shot at Rei with an unexpected speed. Moreover, the attack was what Seryl was most skilled at, a piercing attack.

When the shield was cut in two by the Death Scythe, just before Seryl's thrust pierced through Rei's body.....

「It is regrettable.」

However, even with Seryl's attack which carried her body and soul, it was still an attack at the level Rei could respond too in a moment.

While using the handle of the Death Scythe to cut the shield, against the sword at his belly.....he used the blade cut the sword aimed at him.

Seryl's attack on Rei carried all her strength. If you thought about it normally, Seryl would have won with that attack, but in this case, the difference in pure physical strength was displayed clearly.

Kin~! The sharp screech of metal was heard, Seryl's blade was cut in half and flew through the air with a kurukuru~ sound before stabbing into the ground.

Seryl's thrust, now missing more than half the blade, naturally didn't reach Rei.

「T-this is stupid.....that was my best attack!? And so easily.....」

「.....It was a shame. Our physical ability seems to be different.」

He quietly muttered, he held the Death Scythe in a position to his upper right after hitting the long sword from the lower left. His weapon was raised in the reverse Kesagiri position.

TLN: Kesagiri is the 5th kata of the Japanese laido and is a diagonal slash from the shoulder down.

When Rei attacked, he had noticed the signs in an instant. Seryl stared in surprise at her long sword for a moment before jumping back, but she was a bit

too slow. The blade of the Death Scythe cut diagonally through the raised sword and into Seryl from the reverse Kesagiri position. Still, she wasn't cut in two due to her reflexive evasion.

「Gueh!」

While raising a groan of pain, Seryl fell to one knee. Because it was a deep wound from the left shoulder to her right waist, even if she pressed her hands against it, she couldn't suppress the wound. While seeing a stream of blood flowing to the ground, Rei held up the Death Scythe to give Seryl the final blow.

「No.....ugh.....can't fail!」

While groaning, she grabbed the soil at her feet.....no, the mud which was formed from her blood, and scattered it at Rei's face.

However, Rei didn't dodge it or block it with his robe, instead, he struck the air with the Death Scythe.

With a boom, the sound echoed into the surroundings. At the same time, the mud made from blood scattered around the area.

「A futile struggle.....no, I see.」

Though he was going to say something to Seryl, who had thrown the mud at him, seeing her appearance, he understood Seryl's aim immediately. From the bag at her waist, she had taken out a potion that Hobbes had distributed before the night attack and was pouring it on her wound.

Her leather armour had been torn as well as her body from the blow of the Death Scythe, Rei's eyes were able to confirm that the wound was quickly healing from the potion's effect.

「Hah, do you not feel any excitement looking at the bare skin of a woman.」

While using her hand to hide her two hills that appeared so she could heal her wound, Seryl muttered viciously. However, she immediately removed her hand that was hiding her skin, showing off her near half naked body.

「Hey, how about it? Say if you let me go, you can do whatever you want with my body, would you like to make a deal?」

Seryl looked at Rei with flattering eyes. To begin with, she had good features,

being half naked and with her sex appeal, if a man didn't know who she was, they would jump at her.

「.....Even though I killed 3 of your companions?」

He looked at her eyes while saying those words. Seryl shook her head.

「Those guys knew that the occupation of an adventurer came with danger. If they died here, it means that that was their caliber.」

「I see.」

Rei gave a small mutter to Seryl's words. Using her weight, she tried to push her bare chest against Rei but.....

「Those guys would be turning in their graves.」

Because Rei dodged quickly, Seryl, who tried to lean against his body, tripped on her feet and fell to the ground.

「Wait a moment, what are you doing.....ah.....eeh.」

As she fell to the ground like a brick, she scowled at Rei's face. However, the figure of Rei wearing his robe and his Death Scythe couldn't be seen.

「Hey, why are you doing this. Didn't you hear me say I'll exchange my body for letting me go!」

「Though you certainly said so, I don't recall ever accepting it.」

While muttering, the appearances of Al and Sunyi, who had partied with this woman, appeared in his mind.

The woman with the bow had trusted her companion and used him as a decoy.

After killing the woman, the man still fought back despite understanding that Rei was overwhelmingly stronger than him.

Both weren't strong opponents for Rei. Because they were at the same level as the Claws of the Hawk whom he had crushed as he arrived in Gimuru, that was a matter of course.

However, their attitudes were still something to be looked at. On the other hand.....



He glanced at Seryl who was looking at him with pleading eyes. What was there was surely the beautiful face and expression of a mature woman. However, Rei could see through to the ugly character packed inside, the value he could find in that face was not much different to that of an Orc's face.

「Even if I held you, a woman like you is too unpleasant to accept. There isn't any value to it even if you paid me.」

「What!」

Though she was getting older, Seryl still had confidence in her own looks. Because of that, hearing that he didn't want to hold her even if he was paid, the blood rushed to her head.

「Hey you! Normally I'm not a woman that wouldn't pay attention to a G rank rookie like you! It.....」

「That's good enough, shut up.」

Rei judged that it was meaningless to hear any more of her boasting or pleading for life and casually lifted the Death Scythe.

「Hii~!」

While screaming, the last thing Seryl saw was the huge blade swinging down to behead her.

「Even if you say the frontier city gathers adventurers, in the end, it's a hopeless jumble of good and bad.」

Cutting her head from her neck, he looked down at the corpse of Seryl which was spilling blood as he muttered.

There wasn't a sense of guilt or fear at killing a person in his expression, however, he knit his eyebrows unpleasantly at the corpse.

「Gururu~」

To Rei who was in that state, Set appeared from the darkness and rubbed his head against Rei to comfort him.

「Ah, that's right. Because there are adventurers like Axe of the Thunder God, I can't just leave the others.」

While scratching Set's head with a kori~ kori~ sound, he shook his head as

smoothed the feathers.

「Well, Set. I think it's time to return to our job. I wonder if the leader of the Orcs has appeared yet.」

「Guru~」

Glancing at Set who affirmed Rei's question with a cry, he sat astride Set's back which he had become accustomed to.

「Well, first we'll try to look for one more Orc Mage and Orc General while supporting the other parties. We already have 6 Orc Archers so we don't need any more.....well, if we find any, we'll still hunt them.」

「Gurururururu~!」

Giving a sharp cry into the surroundings, Set ran towards the night sky after taking a run up of a few steps.

1 man and 1 animal rose up into the cloudless, moonlit sky.

# Chapter 36

As the moonlight shone on the burning village, Rei and Set looked at the ground from the sky.

As the battle in the east continued as planned, as expected, the number of Orcs was reduced. And as several parties attacked the Orcs, fighting Axe of the Thunder God, from behind, the Orcs were caught in a pincer attack between Axe of the Thunder God and the other parties.

「It seems the pincer attack from several parties is same strength as Axe of the Thunder God. They certainly can be called an A rank party.」

「Guru~」

Several hours had passed since the night attack began, but sounds of battle could still be heard from the east, held by Axe of the Thunder God.

As expected Min's magic power had started to deplete and the intervals between magic casts grown longer. Still, ice arrows and fireballs kept falling without a break, magic such as Lightning Rain and Gusty Wind could also be seen cast.

「Though the number of Orcs has been significantly reduced, why hasn't the leader of the Orcs come out?」

Rei and Set alone had taken out 10 Orcs. Though he didn't know how many the other parties had defeated, there was no doubt that it was a considerable number. Of course, Axe of the Thunder God, who had been fighting continuously since the start of the night attack, had the most kills out of the subjugation force, especially Elk.

In fact, judging roughly from the sky, the number of Orcs gathered at the east of the village was already less than 50. No matter how you looked at it, it was abnormal that the leader of the Orcs still hadn't come out.

Feeling some doubt at that question and searching the ground while flying over the village on Set, his eyes caught a group moving west under the cover of darkness instead of the east.

If it were a normal human, it would have been impossible to see things moving under the cover of darkness. On the other hand, it might have been a different story if it were a race with good night vision.

Though the night's darkness had weakened due to the flames burning the village and the moonlight, if you chose certain places, it was still possible to hide while moving. However, the reason the group caught his eyes was because as the subjugation force invaded from every direction, they were leaving the village. Several visible figures of adventurers that were part of the Orc subjugation force could also be seen nearby.

Basically, all the parties distributed to the eight locations had started their invasion almost at the same time as Axe of the Thunder God. In that situation, from what Rei saw from the sky, the group moving to the west was extremely unnatural.

As the Orcs were continuously reduced by the subjugation force, a group was hiding under the darkness and moving opposite to the east, where the fiercest battle was happening. The group in the west was taking a different action. The moment the thoughts gathered in Rei's head, he directed a sharp gaze to the ground while smiling ferociously.

「Indeed, this Orc village is already useless. The number of Orcs is also dropping at an increasing rate, the village will burn itself out before long. However, I can't accept Orcs running away for even a moment. Set!」  
「Gururu~!」

To Rei's voice, Set dived sharply to the ground while raising a brave cry. But rather than the Orc group that was running away from the Orc village.....he aimed in front of the western adventurer group.

With the heat from the burning village, the gust from Set as he landed on the ground could be described as a true tropical night wind.

「Uwaa~!」

Naturally, the adventurers who saw Set suddenly appear in front of them scattered and readied their weapons while raising voices of surprise..... however, they put down their weapons after seeing that they was familiar faces from the subjugation force, the G rank adventurer Rei and the Griffon, Set.

「Hey, don't surprise us like that.」

The voice that came over was from a female warrior in her mid twenties..... no, it was a female fencer. Holding a sword that shone sharply in her hand, she wore leather armour that didn't inhibit her movement. Next to her, was a man aged in his mid forties holding a cane and wearing a robe. At the back, a young girl in her teens lowered her bow while giving a sigh of relief, it was a girl with short hair who looked to be a little older than Rei. She was also wearing leather armour that didn't inhibit movement.

With the female fencer as the leader and the middle aged mage, who were both rank C, and the girl holding the bow, who was rank D, they made up the party Scorching Wind.

「Ah, are you doing well Set-chan?」

The female fencer Milein stroked Set's head. The male mage, Sulunin, spat out a sigh while seeing that and called out to Rei.

「So, why are you here? If I'm not wrong, your job is a mobile attack unit. As you can see, we're on our way moving to the center of the village now, there's no battle here.」

「Well, there were a few fights before you came.」

To Sulunin's words, the archer Excel cut in, poking fun.

Rei saw the three people and got off Set before looking around.

「That's a relief.....though it's a funny story, there is a group of Orcs coming just ahead.」

「Impossible. Surely all the Orcs have gathered in the east. There's no way they would come here.」

Milein spoke while stroking Set's back.

Though Set would usually give a joyful cry in these circumstances, as expected, Set only stared into the darkness as the enemy was nearby.

「I know right. In fact, when looking from above, most of the Orcs are fight with Axe of the Thunder God in the east, all the other parties have attacked from behind as part of the strategy.」

「Then, why are there Orcs here?」

「You don't know? The Orcs are doing their best to deal with the night attack and the pincer attack between Axe of the Thunder God and the other parties. Incidentally, Set and I have also killed several high ranking species. In other words.....」

He stopped his words there. However, Sulunin understood what Rei wanted to say and immediately looked at Set with a serious gaze.

「The individual leading the Orcs realised that there's no chance of winning and is running away?」

「Eh!? You're talking about the Orc leader, the boss, right? Yet it's escaping and abandoning its subordinates and companions?」

At the same time as Excel's surprised voice echoed into the surroundings, Rei struck out sharply with the Death Scythe.

With a kin~ sound, an arrow was cut in two and fell to the ground.

「-!? Enemy attack!」

The moment they saw it, Milein gave a sharp shout and Sulunin and Excel immediately prepared for combat. Milein went forward as the vanguard with her sword. The archer and mage, Excel and Sulunin stood behind Milein. They smoothly fixed up their battle formation at once with Milein's words, Rei was able to understand that this formation was the reason why Scorching Wind could win their fights.

While looking at them with admiration in their mind, Set and Rei prepared for battle as usual.

Rei readied the Death Scythe to slash or cast magic at any time. Set flew up to cover Rei from the sky.

「.....They came.」

At almost the same time Rei and the others entered combat readiness, the Orcs showed up out of the darkness.

There were 5 ordinary Orcs, an Orc Archer with a bow and an Orc Mage with a cane. Slightly larger than the other Orcs was an Orc General wearing armour.

「Uwa~, not just normal Orcs but 3 high ranking species.....we're definitely saved because of Rei and Set's reinforcements.」

Milein muttered as cold sweat covered her forehead. The reason was that she judged they wouldn't have been able to defeat that group by themselves. However well the fight went, a couple of Scorching Wind's members would have died. If it went badly, they would have been wiped out.

However, here was the figure of Set, an A rank monster, Griffon. In addition, although they hadn't seen him fight, they knew that Rei had defeated the D rank party Claws of the Hawk by himself.

However, Rei kept looking further into the dark from where the 9 Orcs came from. When Milein followed Rei's glance in doubt, one more shadow appeared from the darkness.

The figure was even larger than the Orc Generals, who were larger than other Orcs, exceeding 3m in size. In addition, it was wearing extravagant armour and held what seemed to be a magic great sword. And above all was its dignity, power and spirit. Such things were clearly different from the other Orcs.

Milein, who saw the figure of the Orc, half called out to Sulunin who was the brains of the party while almost being overwhelmed by the pressure.

「Sulunin, do you know what that Orc is? It isn't any type of Orc I know.....anyhow, I have a bad feeling.」

「Impossible!?!」

As Milein's voice came out, Sulunin turned his gaze to the Orc and cried out involuntarily.

It was the first time Excel had seen Sulunin like this, he usually used polite words and was calm all the time. However, Milein, who had been in a party for a long time with Sulunin, had fortunately or unfortunately seen Sulunin like this several times before. For example, when they met the aquatic monster called Water Kelpie during a Goblin extermination. Or when they ran into a Aruraune Queen, which is a high ranking species, while doing a Treant extermination quest. In other words, whenever they ran into unplanned monsters or when they met with stronger monsters.

TLN: Okay some new monsters here that need a bit of explanation. The Water Kelpie is a Scottish shape shifting mythical creature. From google, a Aruraune is a monster from a game but is essentially a Mangadora, other wise known as a Mandrake.

「Sulunin, tell me. That Orc.....what is it?」

Desperately calming the bad feeling spreading through her chest, Milein asked Sulunin about the Orc without removing her eyes from them.

Sulunin's voice as he responded was somewhat hoarse.

「The king of the Orcs, the one that rules the Orcs, in other words, an Orc King.....it's, a B rank monster.」

「-!? .....I see. It's natural for Sulunin to be like this.」

Milein took in a sharp breath at Sulunin's description. A rank B monster, it's difference with a rank C monster isn't just 1 rank. Like there is a hard barrier between S rank and A rank, there is a similar barrier between B rank and C rank. As it soaked into her, she understood as she had gone past the barrier between D rank and E rank. There was a test to raise your rank, it wasn't just for show.

「It's troubling.....we surely can't expect Axe of the Thunder God, who are in the east, to come towards us in the west.」

In order to calm her restless mind, Milein deliberately spoke out in a carefree tone. Thanks to that, Excel, who had been trembling at the existence of a B rank monster, somewhat regained her composure.

Meanwhile, Rei set up the Death Scythe next to Milein and opened his mouth to speak.

「There's no need to be frightened. After all, these guys are only failures of soldiers who decided they couldn't beat the Orc subjugation force I mentioned earlier and are running away.」

The sneer he had left no doubt behind his words. Though they might not have understood his words, the Orcs got the meaning and looked towards Milein for a moment before getting excited.

「Hey, Rei! Don't provoke them so much. Do you think we can do this by



ourselves!? We can't do anything now but buy time for reinforcements to come.]

「That's right. It's regrettable but we can't beat the Orcs with our current combat strength.....your Griffon, even if it's a A rank monster, we're still out numbered. Even if the Griffon can survive, it doesn't mean anything if we don't.」

Following Milein's words, Sulunin also advised that they should devote themselves to buying time and avoid fighting.

However, Rei ascertained the enemy's combat force while paying no attention to the words of the two.

(Orc King, I'll assume I'll do something about that, the problem is the high ranking species. Archer, Mage and General, one of each. ....It seems there's no other way.)

Spitting out a sigh in his mind, he directed his gaze to Milein.

「Milein, there is 1 suggestion.」

「What?」

「To get out of this, Set and I will be using our hidden trump cards. However then, naturally, you guys will see our last resorts, please promise that you won't reveal it to others.」

「.....What if I say no?」

「In that case, Set and I will quickly leave this place. You can do something about the Orcs with just the 3 of you.」

Rei finished saying so quite bluntly.

Saying it with a natural expression was enough for Milein to understand that they would run without hesitation if she said no.

「Milein.」

Excel gave a small mutter. Even if you said that she had calmed down since seeing the Orc King, she still wasn't able to completely remove the fear of the presence of the other party. One of the reasons why Excel could calm down was because there was a Griffon as an ally, an existence higher than the Orc King, who had an overwhelming presence as a friend. If Milein turned down Rei's

proposal, once Rei left with Set, it wouldn't be possible for them to escape, she subconsciously called out to Milein.

Of course, Milein was the party leader and felt it immediately, spitting out a small sigh.

「I understand. We promise absolutely to not tell anyone about Rei and Set's trump cards. Is that good enough?」

「Ah. Even if you say it here, it's still only a verbal promise, isn't it? After the fight with the Orc King is finished, I would like to use Magic Oath. Is that okay?」

「Magic Oath?」

As Milein was unfamiliar with magic, she looked to Sulunin. Because Sulunin didn't know this magic, he only shook his head silently.

「What will you do?」

Rei prompted for a reply. Though Milein was somewhat uneasy about the unfamiliar magic, she had already made up her mind. After all, the only choices available here were to receive Rei's Magic Oath and survive or refuse and fight the group of Orcs including the Orc King by themselves. And if they chose the latter, at best they could die in battle, at worst.....no, no mistake, she and Excel would end up as breeders for the Orcs for the rest of their lives. If so, it was better to survive even if they had to receive a strange magic.

「I understand. We will protect your secret and also accept the Magic Oath.」

「Good. Set, it's okay now.」

「Guru~」

Set gave a small cry at Rei's voice. The Orcs seemed to have been restrained by the A rank monster, Griffon, until Rei's voice called out.

Even if the Orcs were in a situation where they couldn't move, they instinctively felt that the Griffon in front of their eyes wasn't a mediocre opponent.

Thus, the last battle of the village began with the Orcs, Rei, Set and Scorching Wind.

# Chapter 37

Scorching Wind and the Orcs. The distance between them gradually shrunk.

Having come out before the other Orcs, the Orc General led the ordinary Orcs. To cover them at any time, the Orc Archer and Orc Mage readied their bow and cane. The Orc King, who had set up the village, calmly watched from the back.

「Milein, How many Orcs can the 3 of you fight?」

Rei asked Milein who had readied her long sword as he set up his Death Scythe, ready to swing down.

「That's right. If you leave out the high ranking species, we can take 3 Orcs. If it's just holding them off, we can even take 5. But, it's a little hard if there's a high ranking species.」

「I see. Then I'll take care of all the high ranking species including the Orc King. Scorching wind will handle the 5 other Orcs.」

We will take care of all the high ranking species including the Orc King. After saying that to Milein, Rei turned around as if he had already forgotten and glared at the Orcs.

「Wait, seriously? I mean, are you sane?」

「Well, we'll manage. Set, you're responsible for the Orc Archer and Orc Mage. Use of all skills is permitted. I'll fight the Orc King after I clean up the Orc General.」

「Guru~」

Set gave a cry, acknowledging Rei's instruction.

Though Milein twitched in reaction to Rei saying he allowed the use of all skills, she judged that it was the last resort he mentioned a little while ago and readied her grasped sword at the Orcs.

「Sulunin, Excel, you've heard it. Apparently our opponents are the 5 Orcs.」

「Seriously, to depend on a G rank adventurer.....I'm ashamed at our weakness.」

「Sulunin-san, our top priority now is to survive.」

Excel encouraged the Sulunin, who as the oldest person, was depressed as leaving everything to a boy in his mid teens.

Rei had a faint smile as he saw this and took up his Death Scythe.

「What, don't worry. I can let Set help right away if things go according to my plan. ....Set!」

「Gururu~!」

At Rei's signal, Set gave a sharp cry. A mass of water appeared in front of Set at the same time. It was the Water Ball skill that Set had received after absorbing the magic stone of the Water Bear.

「Eh? What is the Griffon.....」

Sulunin, who knew a lot about magic and monsters, froze for a moment after seeing that. As if not caring, Set fired the water ball anyway. His aim was not at the Orcs in the vanguard.....instead, it was at the high ranking species of Orcs who could support from range at the back. In particular, at the higher risk Orc Mage.

Though the Orc Archer, who had already set up it's bow, shot an arrow at the water ball coming towards them, the water ball used by Set could be manipulated to some extent. Though it would probably have been shot down by the arrow if it flew straight, the water ball drew a curve in the air, dodging the arrow.....and exploding the head of the Orc Mage it was aimed at.

Though the Orc Mage tried to block the water ball with magic, the Orc Mage needed to say an incantation to cast a spell, he wasn't a match for Set who could freely handle the water ball just by thinking about it and fell to the ground with his head destroyed, blood and brains scattered into the surroundings.

Orcs are basically stupid, so in a sense, the Orc Mage was a peculiar existence that could use magic. It was an existence that could manipulate a strong magic power and couldn't be compared to those around it. Aside from the Orc Archer and Orc General who were also high ranking species, the ordinary Orcs' movements slowed after seeing a high ranking species being brought down immediately after the start of combat.

And by the time that had happened, Rei was running along the ground towards the Orcs. He chanted an incantation as he closed the distance to the Orcs.

『Flame, you are a snake. Therefore, burn my enemy as I desire.』

The flame gathered around the Death Scythe, which was a magic casting tool. He jumped on the spot, straight towards the Orcs ahead. Activating the Shoes of Sleipnir, he jumped even further into the air above the Orcs. He landed after passing over the 5 ordinary Orcs. The only one left was the Orc General, wearing poor armour, in front of him. Aiming for the body, he struck out with Death Scythe, sweeping from the side.

「Bumoo~!」

He probably sensed that the attack was dangerous, as expected of the high ranking species, Orc General. However, perceiving the danger, it was his ruin that he tried to block the Death Scythe by raising his sword. The single strike from the Death Scythe, cut through the sword that was used as a shield without resistance, the point of the Death Scythe, pierced into the Orc General's side.

The misfortune of the Orc General was that he didn't know the Death Scythe was a magic item. Though Rei easily wielded the Death Scythe, its weight exceed 100kg. Because of its ability, Rei could swing it around at it's full length and breadth inexhaustibly without felling it's weight. With the Orc General's physical strength, it was impossible to block Rei's basic strike.

『Dance Fire Snake!』

The magic triggered at the same time. A flame snake shot out from the tip of the blade that was stuck in the Orc General, it pushed forward while burning his whole body.

「Bumooooooooo~!」

His body was burned alive, the Orc General gave a scream due to the acute pain in his body that he couldn't suppress as if he was dying. His loud scream, as if forgetting they were acting secretly to escape, echoed into the surroundings.

With such severe pain, the flame snake entered from his pierced side and went up his ribs, shoulder, throat, face and finally his brain, putting out the

flames of life.

Being burnt alive, it was so ghastly a scene that the other Orcs merely stared at Rei, who had just killed their Orc General commander, in silence. It was the same for Scorching Wind, the three sent dumbfounded looks at Rei.

And the moment everything stopped, Set instantly flapped his wings, running into the sky.

「.....Ha! Sulunin, Excel. Cover me. I'll take care of the 5 Orcs we were charged with. Rei is a G rank and killed the Orc General instantly, as a C rank party we're not allowed to say we can't take 5 Orcs.」

「I understand. The formation?」

「Same as usual. However, as safety is a priority, Sulunin will focus on support magic, mainly recovery magic. The attack will be by me and Excel's bow.」

「Okay.」

Quickly instructing the battle formation, Milein quickly went for the Orcs who hadn't recovered from their confusion. At the same time, Sulunin finished his incantation and cast a support magic, Milein's long sword shone brightly.

「Haah!」

With a voice filled with spirit, the sword sliced out. With Sulunin's support magic, it cut through the neck, sending the head flying, with barely any resistance.

With the current support magic cast on the sword, Milein had the confidence to cut the bodies of the Orcs in two, even though they had their boasted muscle and fat which gave more defense than ordinary armour. However, given the number of enemy targets, even though the target was small, she aimed at the neck so she could land a fatal injury.

The body of the Orc fell to the ground gushing out blood, a moment after the head flew off.

「That's 1!」

「Bumoo~!」

Seeing that, as expected, the other 4 Orcs recovered. The Orcs to the right and left of the fallen Orc stabbed at Milein with their spears.

「Excel!」

「I won't let you do that!」

Milein shouted sharply while parrying the spear thrust from the Orc on the right. Hearing her instruction, Excel rapidly shot several arrows in succession at the Orc on the left who had also stabbed out with a spear.

「Bumo~!」

Several arrows pierced the Orc, forcibly halting the spear's movement. Though the arrows themselves did little damage and were stopped at the fat, the moment they pierced in, they obstructed the movement of the spear, stopping it. And the next moment, several sharp wind blades cut the Orc, slicing continuously.

「Bumoo~!」

Sulunin's wind magic cut off the right hand and left foot of the Orc who then fell to the ground, covered in deep cuts.

「Die!」

Milein dodged the stabbing spear attack of the Orc on the right and shouted as she swung her sword down sharply, cutting the neck.

「That's 2!」

While shouting, she looked around for an instant. Set was flying in the sky, trying to attack the Orc Archer. Against that, the Orc Archer desperately shot a few arrows at Set.

But.....

「Gururu~!」

The beak of the Griffon, who had the upper body of an eagle, opened with a cry. Flames were spit out from it, blowing away the surrounding darkness. To the arrows that Set's flame breath was aimed at, everything except the arrowheads, which were made of some animal bones, were burnt up. The arrowheads were sent flying in different directions from the impact.

「Fire Breath? It used water a little while ago, what the hell is that Griffon..... rare species?」

Sulunin saw that and muttered reflexively.

To the side of where Set and Scorching Wind were fighting, Rei's fight with the Orc King was also starting.

Though Rei overwhelmed the Orc General with brute strength and the weight of the Death Scythe, as expected, the Orc General was like a baby compared to the Orc King who led the Orcs. He had a huge sword in his hand, it was a magic sword that could clash with the Death Scythe and would be called a great sword if used by an ordinary person.

「Haah!」

Attacking with a scooping strike from below, it caught the Orc King's great sword with a high pitched, metallic *gin~* sound.

Originally, Rei had wanted to attack by swinging it down, however, Rei's height was only 165cm, shorter than the ordinary Orc. If swinging down to attack was difficult against an Orc General, then it was impossible against the even larger Orc King.

An inhuman muscular strength that could go evenly against the Death Scythe which weighed over 100kg, that was the Orc King.

(Tch, should I have used the Dancing Flame Snake on this guy and not the Orc General? .....No, that's impossible. If I aimed at the Orc King from that position, the Orc General would have blocked me. Then, what to do? My attacks are not effective because of his weapon. In other words, I should make him lose his weapon. So that means.....)

「Corrosion」

The weapon skill of the Death Scythe that he had received from the magic stone of the Queen Ant, Corrosion. It was a skill that gradually corroded the enemies weapons and armour when they clashed. To use it, Rei clashed with the Orc King's sword.

However, the effect of corrosion was only increased by a degree after a single clash. Therefore, it was necessary to use corrosion each time he clashed with the Orc King's great sword.



「Corrosion」

The Orc King blocked the side sweeping strike with his great sword.

「Corrosion」

The Orc King repelled the blade of the Death Scythe, raised in a reverse Kesagiri.

Such a fight repeated for a few minutes. Normally, as the user's magic is consumed if a weapon skill is used, the consecutive use of weapon skills usually wouldn't be done. However, Rei was described by Zepairu as having an extraordinary magic power. He continued to activate corrosion without appearing to be tired.

Sweeping from below, striking from the side. Evading attacks and using the momentum to stab at the Orc King's throat with the handle.

That looked like a magnificent dance. But though sword dancing existed in Elgin, this was more likely to be called a scythe dance.

「.....」

Excel, who had readied her bow to support, caught sight of Rei's figure in the hard fight and spaced out as she admired his movements.

「Excel!」

However, in an instant, she was pulled back to reality by Milein's shout as she cut an Orc.

And, at the same time Excel aimed at an Orc with her bow, the moment finally came.

「Corrosion」

The sword clashed with the Death Scythe. The Orc King's great sword had gradually changed colour due to the effect of the corrosion.....the moment it collided with the Death Scythe, its blade was cut right in two.

「.....」

Several times. No, the Orc King turned his eyes in silence to the Death Scythe, which had triggered corrosion dozens of times before cutting his loved sword in

two.

The Orc King had noticed his own sword was taking fatal damage. However, it still wasn't impossible to fight the man with vast magical power in front of him with his sword.

No, he had judged that he could endure the attacks of his enemy because his sword was a magic item.

「Bumoooooooo~!」

Raising a shout that echoed into the village, he hurled the handle of the great sword at Rei. To the blinded Rei, he threw out his fist to crush him with a physical strength that exceeded the Orc General.

「Indeed, truly someone who can sit on the throne. But.....」

Using the handle of the Death Scythe to deal with the handle of the great sword, he used the momentum to avoid the Orc King's fist. Passing by each other.....he went for the the belly of the big Orc King with the Death Scythe's blade at the same time.

「Bumooooooooooooo!」

Death cries. While raising a cry that could only be called as such, he stayed on the spot without falling to the ground.

Though his body was only connected by a single piece of skin, still, the Orc King stood without falling to the ground. It could be said that it was the pride of a king.

「.....Ah. I understand」

The king had neither fallen to the ground or died. In the case a king was defeated by the enemy on the battlefield, he would be decapitated. Rei sensed that atmosphere from the Orc King and approached him with his hand on the Death Scythe.

「Farewell, proud king of the Orcs」

「Bumoooooooo~!」

Zan~!

It was the fastest attack of today. People watching only saw an attack like a flash of light as the Orc King's neck was cut.

Almost at the same time, Set made a steep dive from the sky, crushing the Orc Archer's head with his eagle like claws as Milein split the head of the last Orc.

# Chapter 38

A fierce fight. The fight against the Orcs led by the Orc King could be called as such.

Scorching Wind, led by Milein, said that they would only be able to hold off 5 Orcs, but with the luck that the Orcs were surprised by Rei's sudden attack, they were able to beat all 5 Orcs with three people.

As for Rei, he didn't have a chance to use his best skill, fire magic, and was only able to fight the proud Orc King with his Death Scythe, decapitating him.

The person who pushed their superiority most in this fight would have been Set. Should you call the the dignity of an A rank monster, his fight against the Orc Archer was a complete victory.

「Haa, haa, haa.....」

In front of the corpses of the Orcs, Milein was breathing roughly. Continuously assisting using recovery magic as well as attacking, Sulunin had almost used up his magic power and sat down on the ground.

The most energetic person in Scorching Wind was surprisingly the newbie, Excel. Although she was sweating a lot, she was wary of the surroundings and wasn't breathing roughly.

However, this was due to the roles in their party. Milein, who was the party leader of Scorching Wind, was the sole person responsible for the vanguard, Sulunin used magic to attack, recover and support, because of this, Excel's main role was to restrain the enemy.

「Well, we won. I think I said that we'd do our best to hold out against 5, but.」  
「Haa, haa, haa.....fuu. Well about that, even if you say Rei is strong, a G rank adventurer fighting evenly with an Orc King.....fighting.....that reminds me, he didn't even receive a single wound from fighting the B rank Orc King head on. Seriously, maybe he'll reach S rank in future. Well, anyway. At the very least, your rank can contend with an Orc King, even though I'm ashamed to say, we as a C rank party can't even defeat ordinary Orcs. ....Ah I'm tired. Anyway, I'm

tired. Terribly tired. I don't even want to take another step.」

To Milein's words, Sulunin agreed by nodding.

「With this, we'll will become a famous party for a while. That's why I say we should actively promote ourselves.」

「.....About that.」

While wary of the surroundings, Excel nodded with a faint smile.

The moment Rei was going to say something.

『UOOOOOOooooooooo~!』

A cry from the east of the village could be heard.

「It seems the fight has been decided there.」

It was so, the undeniable roar of victory could be heard now. It wasn't possible to mishear the voices mixed with jubilation.

「It seems so. Well, because the Orc King came here, I guess they were discarded pawns for their escape after all.」

「Even if they were sacrificed as pawns, as expected, they were only able to survive in the village because of the Orc King.」

Naturally, if the troops for the guard were increased, the forces for the diversion would decrease, and they would likely have been annihilated early on. A large escort along with the Orc King would also be more likely to be found by the members of the subjugation force.

「.....Well then. Well, it seems the Orc subjugation quest has ended with this.」  
「You're right. ....It was a tiring request. Well, it can't be helped as the city of Gimuru would incur damage if we left it alone.」

Milein had a wry smile as she glanced to the side. Rei stored the corpse of the Orc Mage that Set had defeated as well as the corpses of the Orc General and the Orc King into the Misty Ring.

All of Scorching Wind looked at Rei with interest, Sulunin called out to Rei as he was storing the corpse of the Orc King.

「Heh~, I've seen it a few times from further away but this is the first time to

see it so close. Is that the item box?」

「Ah. It's a parting gift from my teacher who taught me magic, I only found out it was an ultra rare item after I came to the city of Gimuru.」

「Such a magic item, even if you say it's a parting gift for a pupil.....I would like to meet him once.」

「Well, I never paid attention to where I lived until I was sent away my spatial magic. It will be a little difficult to introduce you as I don't even know where teacher's house is.」

「Hey.」

A voice abruptly interrupted Sulunin and Rei's conversation. When Rei turned his gaze to the voice, he saw Milein looking at him with questioning eyes.

「What's wrong?」

「Though I understand collecting the high ranking species that you and Set-chan defeated, why aren't you collecting the Orc Archer?」

What Milein had looked at earlier was the corpse of the Orc Archer whose head was crushed by Set. High ranking Orcs.....even if you say that, Orc Generals and Orc Mages were C rank monsters and differed from Orc Archers which were still D rank. Still, it was a high ranking Orc, the skin, several organs and the subjugation proof could be stripped off for materials, the magic stone of a D rank monster was also worth a lot.

Rei glanced at Milein as she said that words, and turned his eyes to the Orc Archer as he spoke.

「Do you remember what we talked about before the battle with the Orcs?」

「What, this all of a sudden. Of course I remember. In return for Rei and Set using their trump cards to help us, you will cast Magic Oath on us?」

While asking Milein, he gave a quick wink that only Set could see as she replied.

While the 3 members of Scorching Wind were listening interestingly at Rei's words, Set saw the signal and went around to the back.

「Ah. So, because of that, I'll be burdening you in various ways with Magic Oath. Compensation.....this is something like that.」

「.....In other words, the reason is that Magic Oath is a dangerous magic?」

「Of course there's no danger if you don't try to tell others my secret. However, you still wouldn't feel good being bound by it, don't you think? Well, Magic Oath does give you benefits to a certain level.」

「Benefits?」

「Ah. It's a property of the magic used for Magic Oath, but a person who has the magic cast on them more or less get's increased resistance to flames and heat.」

「.....Okay. There's no use in saying anything now, we would have all died if it weren't for you anyway. Please do it quickly before my resolution fades. Sulunin, Excel, you guys okay?」

Taking a deep breath, Milein agreed to accept the Magic Oath. As for the two people Milein called out to, Sulunin was silent while Excel nodded with somewhat cramped cheeks.

Rei saw the state of the 3 and signaled to Set.

If the members of Scorching Wind had tried to run away instead of receiving the Magic Oath, Set would have attacked them from behind.

Set saw Rei's signal and relaxed his combat readiness while watching for attacks from Orc remnants.

「Let's go.」

Milein nodded at Rei's words as he started his incantation.

『Flame, thou is a seed. If the host breaks the contract, use their life to bloom into flames in glory.』

With Rei's incantation, the flame gathered on the Death Scythe was compressed into the size of a seed.

He lifted the handle of the Death Scythe and brought it in contact with Milein's head.

『Seed of Contract.』

As the same time the incantation was completed, the seed of flame from the Death Scythe entered Milein's head smoothly.

「Ah.....」

Though Milein unintentionally raised a voice at that feeling, there wasn't a shock as she expected, instead, she felt something faintly warm enter her.

「That, has it finished?」

Though she muttered instinctively, Rei only gave a small nod in response.

「Right, but there's still 2 people left.」

Saying so, he used the same magic on Sulunin and Excel.

And, after Rei used the spell for contract on the three people, they gave a small sigh.

「It's good with this. So, I'll give a detailed explanation of the magic. Because the seed planted in you will burn up your body if you try to tell other about Set's Fire Breath, Water Ball or my corrosion, you should be careful about what you say and do.」

Their body being burnt from the inside, from the fight a little while ago.....the appearance of the Orc General appeared inside the minds of Scorching Wind.

The Orc General, which was a C rank monster, cared neither about shame or reputation and screamed out in pain. They were made to understand how severe the pain was just by seeing it.

「With it, you will also receive resistance to flames and heat as I mentioned a little while ago.」

「Guh, to be sure, what kind of resistance is it?」

Milein wiped the image of the Orc General from her mind and asked Rei.

「About that.....it seems damage from flames is reduced by roughly 10%. At the same time, this also benefits people that can use magic, the power of fire magic that is used is also roughly increased by 10% and magic power consumption is reduced by 10%. Well, to put it simply, it benefits the fire element.」

「10%, is it.」

Sulunin was stunned as he heard Rei's description.

Precisely because Sulunin was a magician, he was able to clearly understand how much the benefit was. Though a kind of magic item that increased magic



power existed, it's performance wasn't to the degree of increasing the power of the magic and it was only possible to buy one with a few platinum coins. When it came to magic items that could increase the power of magic by a noticeable amount, you would need payment in light gold coins to obtain it.

In addition, there was the added bonus of resistance to heat and fire. For Sulunin, which wasn't part of his nature to disclose Rei and Set's abilities, the magic named Seed of Contract gave nothing other than benefits.

「I have understood the magic. Because, of course, I don't intend to spread the information, I am lucky to have the benefits from the Seed of Contract. So, can we really get the Orc Archer?」

「I don't care. Well then, I'll go to where Hobbes is. Even if the Orc King is defeated, the quest won't end unless I report it.」

「Eeh, please do so. As expected, because we're tired, we'll join you later after we take a rest.」

Nodding at Milein's words, he sat astride Set's back.

「Ah, I'd like you to leave Set-chan if possible. For me to heal.」

「Milein, don't ask for the impossible.」

Sulunin chided Milein as she looked at Set wistfully. Excel watched on with a wry smile.

「Guru~」

Giving a small cry at Milein, Set shook his tail several times.

「Milein, Set said that he will play with you again later.」

Rei interpreted Set's actions and told that to Milein.

At this time, Set's appearance of readiness to pounce at them if they fled from the Seed of Contract from before could not be seen at all.

「Eh? Really? Un~, un~. Let's play to the most before we leave. I still have some dried meat.」

While hearing Milein's joyful voice, they once again in this day started to rise into the sky.

「Dawn, is it?」

What Rei saw as he ascended into the sky was the scene of the night's darkness fading away as the morning sun rose from the east.

「In the end, we were kept fighting all night. Well, those below still look energetic.」

Should you say, as expected of adventurers, they didn't look like they had stayed up all night, along with Axe of the Thunder God who defeated the diversion force, they seemed to be searching through the Orc village to thoroughly to hunt out the remnants of the Orcs.

The Orcs that were found hiding and lurking in a few hidden places were fought, but were already outnumbered by the crowd of people. The Orc who attacked in a last ditch resistance were killed one after the other.

Though it may be considered cruel if you heard of the remnants being hunted down, it was a necessary job. Because Orcs used female humans for breeding, if they showed unnecessary mercy and let them go, it was likely that the city of Gimuru would incur damage. At any rate, this was because the city of Gimuru was the nearest location where people gathered.

While glancing towards the ground for an instant, where the hunt for the remnants was being carried out, he signaled Set to go to the place Hobbes was waiting at.

At this time, Elk saw the figure of Set moving away from the village and was instinctively certain that Rei and Set had taken out the Orc leader.

At a place a little further away from the Orc village. Hobbes looked up into the brightening sky.

In the carriages a bit further away from Hobbes, the two women saved from the Orc village were sleeping like the dead. Finally realising that they had been rescued from the Orcs, all their past fatigue was released at once. One of the causes was also that Hobbes had given them some tea with the effect of relaxing their mind so that they wouldn't be reminded of being caught by the Orcs.

「.....With that smoke, the village is burning without doubt. In that case, the night attack could be considered a success. If any unforeseen circumstances had

occurred, I would have been informed immediately.」

As he was originally an adventurer, Hobbes was accustomed to waiting. Though impatient and unpleasant thoughts floated into his mind, he believed in the participants of the Orc subjugation force and waited quietly at his place.

Of course, he held a spear which he habitually used as an adventurer in case of emergencies. This was because Orcs running away from the village might come here.

Hobbes, who turned his gaze to the Orc village in that state, suddenly heard something in the surroundings.....with Set flying calmly in the morning glow, he found the figure of Rei riding on his back. He was convinced of the success of the night attack as small smile floated onto his face.

# Chapter 39

As the light of the sun gradually rose and spread to the surroundings, Rei and Set landed at Hobbes' position.

「How did it go?」

「No problems. The leader of the Orcs has been taken out.」

「I see.」

Giving a small nod at Rei's words, he took out a small whistle from his chest and blew with all his might.

Simultaneously, a shrill sound resounded throughout the area.

The thing Hobbes was blowing on was a Magic Whistle, a kind of magic item. However, contrary to its exaggerated name, it was a cheap item that could be bought for a few gold coins. Its effect was simple. Using the user's magic power, it would produce a shrill sound into the surrounding area. But, at times where a simple clear signal needs to be used, it was quite useful.

As for Hobbes who just blew the Magic Whistle, it was decided previously that it would be used to inform the members of the subjugation force that the leader of the Orcs had been defeated. Once the participants of the night attack had finished hunting the remnants of the Orcs, they would return immediately.

「With this it's good. ....Now then, let's hear from you first.」

Returning the Magic Whistle to his chest, Hobbes directed his gaze to Rei.

「That's right. To start, as expected, Dark Night's Star attacked me during the night attack, so I defeated them.」

「.....So, what happened to Dark Night's Star?」

「They're all dead.」

「I see.....didn't you think it would be better to catch them alive and arrest them?」

「And not kill the opponents who are trying to kill me?」

「Well, I cannot say for sure.....however, there would be benefits if you had caught them alive.」

「Benefits? In addition to getting information?」

Listening to Hobbes words, he asked curiously.

In the first place, you could understand Dark Night's Star party by simply looking at the party composition, because there didn't seem to be anyone behind them, he didn't think he would be able to get any significant information from them. However, after hearing that there might have been benefits from it, Rei's interest sprung up and he prompted Hobbes to continue his story.

「Ah. If the members of Dark Night's Star had been caught alive, they would have been branded as criminals and sold as slaves. And from that, you would have received half the sales.」

「Slaves, is it.」

「Hm? Ah, right. You lived with your magic teacher until you came to the city of Gimuru. Then you haven't seen slaves before?」

「Well, something like that. Though I'm not interested in slaves, I'll remember the information.」

「Ah, please do. For your information, the guild is thankful if you catch them alive. Basically, if you catch a thief alive, they will be sold as slaves and half the sales will go to the adventurer.」

That was the end of Dark Night's Star. For Hobbes, he didn't have the time to pay attention to to a party paying the price they deserved.

「So, to change the subject.....even if you came to tell me that the subjugation has been completed, who defeated the Orc leader?」

「Ah. We discovered some Orcs trying to escape the village under the cover of darkness. We met with Milein's Scorching Wind and exterminated them.」

While explaining the circumstances to Hobbes, he retrieved the corpse of the Orc King from the Misty Ring's list in his mind.

The corpse of a monster 3m in size appeared in front of his eyes. The body was in a state where it was cut in two at the middle, connected only by a piece of skin. The Orc King's head lay next to it. Hobbes directed a stunned gaze at the corpse.

「Oi, you don't mean this guy.....」

Looking at the corpse of the monster, Hobbes turned sharply to Rei. As expected of a veteran adventurer, he knew what the monster lying on the ground in front of him was.

「Ah. I heard from the mage of Scorching Wind. It's probably an Orc King?」  
「.....You're right. A rank B monster, Orc King. Though I have had the experience of fighting one several times when I was an adventurer.....defeating one by yourself. No, there is Set, an A rank Monster and the C rank party Scorching Wind, it might be possible.」

Hobbes nodded as he muttered. Rei saw this and realised the misunderstanding immediately, he judged that it would probably be easier for him to rank up in the guild if he honestly told him that he had defeated the Orc King by himself.

(As well as that, Scorching Wind probably.....I mean, Milein will probably spread the news that I defeated it.)

The magic used on Milein, Seed of Contract, only forbade her from speaking any information about Set's Fire Breath, Water Ball and Rei's Corrosion. Since telling people that Rei defeated the Orc King wasn't forbidden, the information would spread around sooner or later.

Well, though in that case, it might be awkward if they are asked how it was defeated.....Rei hoped that they would keep it in mind so as to not trigger the Seed of Contract.

From the feeling in participating in a fight with them, he didn't worry about it too much. He intuitively understood that he was able to trust them, unlike the unreliable Dark Night's Star.

「I'll say it first, the Orc King also led 5 ordinary Orcs as well as one Orc Archer, Orc Mage and Orc General. Scorching Wind defeated the 5 Orcs and Set killed the Orc Mage and Orc Archer. I killed the Orc General and Orc King.」

The moment Rei said that, Hobbes suddenly stopped moving. He cautiously turned his eyes from the Orc King to Rei.

「Just now, what did you say? I'm sorry but I'm missing half an ear so I didn't hear that clearly. It seems I misheard it one way or another.」

Saying so, Hobbes pointed to his half torn right ear. However, it wasn't unreasonable. He had just heard a G rank adventurer say he defeated an Orc King, a B rank monster, by himself. Even though Hobbes knew that Rei wasn't normal, no matter what, he still couldn't believe it.

If it were Set, he might have been able to accept him defeating the Orc King. Because after all, the Griffon was an A rank monster, it shouldn't be too difficult to defeat lower rank Orc King.

But.....

「I defeated the Orc King.....No, well, I understand that it sounds unbelievable. It will become clear if you ask Scorching Wind later.」

Saying that, he saw several sets of adventurers trickling back from the Orc village and stored the corpse of the Orc King back into the Misty Ring as he didn't want to cause any meaningless noise about it.

「Heey~、Hobbes, Rei and Set! 」

While lending a shoulder to Min, who was walking unsteadily, Elk, the leader of Axe of the Thunder God, waved his hand while shouting. The colour of fatigue from fighting Orcs all night long could hardly be seen on his face. As for Min who was being carried on his back, maybe because she had overused her magic and had hardly any magic power left, she looked understandably pale and exhausted. Their son, Rhodes, was next to his parents.....Or should you say, was looking at his mother anxiously.

The figures of all the people who participated in the Orc subjugation could be seen behind them. From Rei's brief look, the number of people seemed to have decreased from the strategy meeting. As expected, it was too selfish to hope that all members would survive attacking an Orc village lead by an Orc King.

Still, as it was a night raid, it was good to get off with this degree of casualties. All the members of the subjugation force understood that if they had fought during the daytime, the casualties would be much greater.

「Oh, Rei. You beat the boss of the Orcs in the end didn't you?」

Arriving at where Hobbes was, other adventurers who had sat down because of fatigue, to treat their wounds or to pick up their belongings from the horse

drawn carriages cast skeptical looks when Elk asked in a loud voice.

Next to him, Rhodes looked at Rei and frowned.

「Dad, no matter what the circumstances, this guy wouldn't be able to kill the leader of the Orcs. Certainly, I understand that Rei has ability beyond G rank. But.....」

「Gururu~」

Set growled to criticize Rhodes who was about to say something.

「.....Tch, anyway! I won't believe that this guy defeated the Orc leader. Hey, Mum. You should go take a rest now.」

To Set's growl, Rhodes left a parting shot and left, taking Min towards the carriages. Min followed Rhodes with a wry smile.

Seeing the wry smile on his wife's face, Elk smiled as he saw them off before giving a small apology to Rei.

「Sorry about this. Hey, you know the Orcs that were going to sneak round behind us? Though he now admits that you have skills after seeing you defeat those guys, it seems he won't honestly say that in the open to you.」

「Guru~.....」

To Set who gave a sullen cry, Rei stroked his back to calm him while smiling back at Elk with a similar wry smile.

「Hey, calm down. His attitude as already become a lot better compared to when we first met, so don't be too displeased.」

「Gurururu~」

There's no helping it, Set seemed to say as he swung his tail and lay down to rest a bit further away.

「Well, Rhode's attitude is justifiable. When he matures, he will be forced to admit the strength of the strong.....」

To Elk who spat out a sigh, Hobbes came over and passed him a glass of water.

「Come now, take a drink and a break first. Seriously, you're asking for too much from your son. In the first place, as a C rank adventurer for his age, he's



the top of his generation of adventurers in the city of Gimuru. ....Well, though there are exceptions to everything.」

For an instant, Hobbes glanced at Rei, hinting. As for Elk, from what was said, he understood that his intuition was correct.

「That was it after all. I thought so.」

「Yes, yes, if Rei wasn't there, it would have been impossible to defeat the Orc King.」

Suddenly interrupting the conversation was Milien, the leader of Scorching Wind, who had fought in the battle with the Orc King with Rei.

The moment the words Orc King came out, Hobbes, Elk and the nearby adventurers who heard the story about Rei became noisy.

「Hey, what I heard just now.」

「If I didn't mishear, I heard Orc King.」

「I heard that as well.」

「But come on, that kid has Set. Then maybe.....」

「But, didn't Milein just say that they would have lost to the Orc King if Rei wasn't there?」

「Well maybe, could it be that Scorching Wind, with Rei's cooperation, defeated the Orc King?」

「With Set-chan there, anything can be done!」

While hearing the voices around him, Elk looked to confirm it with a surprised face.

「Oi, it is seriously an Orc King?」

「That's right. I already thought we were finished when I first saw the Orc King. After all, aside from the Orc King there was also an Orc General, an Orc Mage, an Orc Archer and 5 more ordinary Orcs.....」

「How to say, it certainly was a difficult situation.」

「I know right? Well, we managed somehow in the end thanks to Rei and Set.」

「Hey, Rei. You put the corpse of the Orc King into the Misty Ring right? Could you show me the Orc King for a moment? Fortunately or not, I've never seen an Orc King directly.」

「I would like to take a short break as soon as I can first of all. As expected, I'm

tired after fighting all night.」

Muttering as he spat out a sigh, Hobbes lightly tapped Rei's shoulder.

「Give up, Elk won't listen once he starts. As for the members of the subjugation force, they participated regardless of the danger. For that, I wouldn't be surprised if they wanted to take a look at the Orc King that you defeated.」

「That seems to be so. After continuously fighting the whole night, are there any adventurers not tired?」

Following up from Hobbes, Elk continued. Moreover, thought the people resting nearby didn't say anything, the light of expectation could be seen in their eyes. As for the people resting in the carriages or taking a spare portion of drink or food from their baggage, hearing the noise, they sent glances of expectation.

「Come on, come on. Now that it's come to this, surely you have to show it? Because you killed it, you shouldn't be so modest.」

「.....Though the commotion escalated because of you.....Well, fine. Since things have gone this way, I can't not show it.」

Giving a sigh of resignation at Milein's words, Rei once again took the corpse of the Orc King from the Misty Ring.

There might also have been some people who saw the effect of the Misty Ring close up for the first time. Several voices of surprise were heard.

And there were also surprised voices when the corpse of the Orc King appeared, everyone in the area made similar sounds.

「It's huge.」

「Ah. Obviously when you compare it to an ordinary Orc. In addition, its neck has been cut. It must have been a very sharp blow.」

「Its body is almost split in two. This, did that kid Rei really do this?」

The body was almost cut in two, only connected by a piece of skin. And right next to the body lay the head of the Orc King

The surrounding adventurers who saw that carved into their mind the ability of Rei, who was originally a G rank.

「Right? Wasn't it good to show it?」

As if his mischief had succeeded, Elk smiled like a naughty brat as he slapped Rei on the back.

「At the very least, the people who participated in the subjugation force will never see you as a mere G rank anymore.」

「.....Was that your aim. Well, I would like to thank you for that.」

「Ah, no need to thank me. It's not a bad thing to make a talented guy like you owe me a favour.」

Thus, after everyone had taken a good look at the Orc King, the look out was left to Elk and Hobbes, who still had strength to spare. Most of the adventurers slept well after fighting all night long and recovered from their fatigue while being cautious of attacks from remnant Orcs and other monsters.

# Chapter 40

The night attack against the Orc village had been completed, it was several hours after returning to Hobbes' location. Everyone in the subjugation force's members, including Rei, were sleeping like logs.

Hobbes was near the carriages, acting as the lookout while everyone else was sleeping. Next to him, Elk sat down, carrying food that Rei had taken out of the Misty Ring before he had gone to sleep.

「Hey, Elk. Because you're technically on watch right now, you should at least act like it.」

Hobbes called out to Elk while looking around as he sat on the ground.

However, Elk gave an amazed reply while eating skewers, sandwiches and roasted Fang Boar.

「Hey, come on, even you know how sharp Set's sense are. With that fellow, there's almost no need to be worried about an enemy surprise attack.」

Elk glaced ahead to Set, who had plopped himself on the ground, closed his eyes, and gone to sleep. However, Hobbes and Elk could easily imagine that he wasn't asleep was alert of the surroundings.

「But you know.....how to say it, are you alright eating so much?」

Elk had already eaten enough food for 10 people, Hobbes muttered in an amazed voice in reaction to Elk's previous words.

「After all, I was fighting all night. When everyone gets up, won't there be the big job of stripping materials and subjugation proofs from the Orcs in the village? And the treasure that the Orcs have collected has yet to be found. .... Well, since we didn't find anything in the mansion of the Orc King in the center of the village, we can't expect too much.」

Elk finally finished his meal, released a big burp and drank the water in the water bottle beside him.

「That's true. ....Are you really okay with not sleeping?」

「I'm fine, you can't compare me to the other guys. Anyway, didn't we fight continuously for three days and nights in that Kraken subjugation several years ago? This is an easy overnight victory compared to that.」

「.....You, I can't stay young forever, you'll start to notice it sooner or later.」

「Not yet, not yet, I can't lose to the young guys yet.」

To Elk's words, Hobbes let out a sigh as he also grabbed a water bottle nearby.

Anyhow, the sunlight of the mid summer sun glared down on the camp, set up on a grassy plain, a small distance away from the Orc village. There weren't any roofs to offer protection from the sun, as they sat in direct sunlight, it was necessary to replenish their moisture levels frequently.

「It seems the Rowdy Elk is still alive and well.」

Rowdy Elk. It was a nickname attached to Elk when he was still a low rank adventurer. Although his party, Axe of the Thunder God, was more well known now, after Elk had just registered with the guild and gotten his fingers burnt several times, Hobbes, who was a C rank adventurer when Elk just registered, gave Elk that name.

Hearing his old nickname that he wanted to forget, Elk scrunched his eyebrows. With an expression that matched the conversation about old times, Hobbes relaxed and turned his eyes to Elk with a smile.

「Stop with calling me that name already.」

Indeed he had grown up and married, he wasn't too happy at all to be called Rowdy, the name he had been given as a kid.

「Well, you're certainly strong enough now. Even though it's only been a while, this old me has already retired from being an adventurer. If you weren't here for this request in particular, we probably wouldn't have been able to carry out such a crazy strategy. ....But you know, it's a fact that the new seedlings won't grow if the ones at the top do their best forever.」

「.....Rei, is it?」

As expected, it wasn't something to talk about in a loud voice, so he asked in hushed tones.

「Well, there's that as well.....that fellow might be an exception. It's your son I'm talking about. But Rei is it? Do you know? That guy, during the night attack against the Orcs, he retaliated against a surprise attack by Dark Night's Star and defeated them all.」

「Heh~. That was expected. ....It's Dark Night's Star's own fault though. 」

「At the very least, it's a mistake that this fellow is only rank G. When this request ends and we return to the guild, I'm going to negotiate and recommend that he be given E rank.」

「Oi, oi, going up two ranks at once?」

「No, that's three ranks」

「Hobbes?」

「I plan to have him take the rank up test to D rank as soon as possible.」

Even if you said that this was an important emergency request, to rank up three times from one request was a substantial amount. Elk understood how impossible it was because he had climbed those ranks himself.

「.....Are you serious?」

Or rather, are you sane? Elk's eyes seemed to ask as he looked at Hobbes.

However, Hobbes only gave a small nod as if it were natural.

「Of course. What kind of adventurer has the ability to beat a B rank Orc King? Letting him move through E and F rank is too inefficient. In addition.....」

Glancing to a place bit further away. Set was lying down near the carriage Rei was sleeping in.

「That fellow is accompanied by a Griffon, an A rank monster. I don't think it would be strange if he made it to B or A rank.」

「Hey!」

At those words, Elk was doubting Hobbes' sanity. However, Hobbes had a smile that looked liked Elk's usual grin.

「Of course I don't mean immediately. Aside from getting to D rank, it is a fact that apart from combat ability, various knowledge is also required to get to B and A rank.」

If he became an A or B rank adventurer, he would be known as a top tier

adventurer. It wasn't that rare for those adventurers to receive direct requests from people such as nobles or royalty. For those times, etiquette is necessary, there are also times where decisions must be made for the sake of national interest.

Though Elk's words and manners didn't sound like that of nobility or royalty, he had the minimum knowledge required regarding manners. And most importantly, as Elk's wife, Min, was standing nearby and dealing with everything necessary, it wasn't really a problem for the A rank party Axe of the Thunder God. However, if you talk about Rei, Hobbes and Elk could tell by looking that he wasn't very good at socialising. If such a person met with nobility or royalty, how would it turn out.....in the best case, he would be told off. However, if it didn't go well, there was a possibility he wouldn't be able to continue as an adventurer. Losing someone over such a trivial thing was unthinkable for the two men.

「In addition.....hey, Elk. You, didn't you notice anything while looking at the corpse of the Orc King?」

「.....Notice what?」

As he asked Hobbes, the picture of the corpse of the Orc King he saw a few hours ago floated in his mind. The first thing that came to his eyes was the body, connected only by a single piece of skin.....it couldn't be.

「It was a single blow that cut off the head. The skill required to that, it doesn't take a lot of imagination to tell you. At the very least, it's impossible for me to do it.」

He turned his eyes and moved his hands to his battle axe while muttering.

Rather than cutting, the axe was a weapon of destruction. Though it was possible for Elk to destroy the head into a thousand pieces, it was impossible for him to cut as sharply as Rei did.

However, Hobbes gave a small shake of his neck at Elk's words.

「Not that. ....No, but I understand what you want to say. Actually, living up until now, I've seen such sharp cuts several times. But you know, do you know what he said when I asked him his profession in the guild meeting room?」

「.....What?」

「A Magic Warrior. In other words, Rei can practice magic. But, was there a wound on the Orc King caused by magic?」

Being asked that, he remembered the words from his son, Rhodes.

He said that the Orcs who had tried to sneak around the back during the fight at the east of the village had been annihilated. At that time he said that it might have something to do with Set's power, he didn't know that most of the Orcs were burnt to death by Rei. At any rate, Griffons couldn't manipulate fire.

TLN: *cough* Fire Breath *cough*

That meant.....

「Oi. That means Rei defeated the Orc King without using everything?」  
「Maybe so. Though there is a possibility he used a wind magic something like Razor Whirlwind.....as far as I know, Rei's specialty should be in fire magic. Maybe though he hasn't used everything he has.....Rei has the capability to defeat an Orc King in that state, if you think about the fact that he's accompanied by an A rank monster, Griffon, it isn't strange to think that at the very least, he has the equivalent combat power of a B or A rank adventurer.」

TLN: The exact words of Razor Whirlwind are カマイタチ, it's a monster from Japanese folklore that was known to create whirlwinds to cut their victim. Because of this, it has a second meaning of cuts from whirlwinds.

「.....If the story is true then certainly.」

Though Rei looked like he has a diminutive and petite physique compared with his son, Rhodes, he judged that the ability hidden in his body outstripped that of his son. At the same time, imagining the past trouble, Rhode's rebellious spirit and feelings of rivalry with Rei throughout this request.....a mischievous smile floated onto his face.

(Having a rival like that isn't a bad thing. If his rival is a wall high enough to beat him, Rhodes will mature as an adventurer. Though there is a possibility that he breaks down if he can't overcome it.....well, because it is my son, he'll manage somehow.)

As Elk suddenly thought in his mind, he felt envious for having such a person.



「So, as you know Elk, the adventurers guild in Gimuru is basically always understaffed.」

「.....Ah well.」

What Hobbes said was true. About the subjugation of the Kraken Elk mentioned earlier, there was a support request through the guild for Axe of the Thunder God from a seaside town. The adventurers guild was always understaffed.....no, to be precise there was a limited number of high rank adventurers. C and D rank. As for E and G rank, there was a moderate amount of them.

「It's still okay now. You are still in active service, but like me, you won't be able to stand in the front line for much longer. However, the thought of when your and my generation has retired.....」

「Hobbes.」

Though hesitated to say something for a moment, as if he recovered immediately, he gave Hobbes a big slap on the back.

「Hey, your hairline will retreat even more if you worry too much you know?」

Being what he should really be worrying about without hesitation, Hobbes involuntarily gave a wry smile.

「In the next generation, there's also my son, Rhodes. There's also Rei. Come one, you don't need to worry so much. There are also unknown but talented guys around. Even low rank adventurers will begin to bloom soon.」

「You're right.....ah, it certainly is true. It seems I've gotten sentimental about the result after being out of the field for so long.」

「Sorry to dump cold water on you but doesn't that seem like something an old person would say?」

「Forget it. You won't change as much as me. ....Now then, I think it's about time?」

Finishing the talk, he confirmed the position of the sun.

Because there wasn't such a thing as a watch, he could only roughly measure the time from the position of the sun.

「It is. If possible I would want to take things a bit slower, after all, it's hot.

However, if the proof of subjugation and materials aren't stripped from the Orcs soon, there's a possibility they will be damaged or eaten by other animals and monsters.」

Nodding at Elk's words, he took the Magic Whistle from his chest and blew it with all his might. With that, the sleeping members of the subjugation force began to wake up.

While everyone was not in state where their fatigue had completely gone, they immediately headed towards the Orc village after eating and drinking some light rations taken out from Rei's Misty Ring.

「Rei, don't you need to go to the village?」

Once Rei woke up, he had started to hand out the supplies stored in the Misty Ring, once his work was done, he turned around to the voice who was playing with Set.

Elk looked like he still had strength to spare even though he had been a lookout all night and had not slept a wink, Min who had recovered a certain amount of magic power back looked healthier. And then there was the figure of Rhodes, who was still sleepy.

There were already only a few adventurers in the surroundings. Though there should originally have been the two women rescued from the Orc village last night, under Hobbes' instructions, along with some adventurers, they had left earlier for the city of Gimuru to inform the guild that the Orc subjugation was a success and were no longer here.

「Ah. All the Orcs I defeated were stored in the Misty Ring like the Orc King. After I return to the city, I was going to strip the materials and proof of subjugation from them.」

Though Rhodes reacted twitchily when he heard the words Orc King, he didn't try to say anything as he had heard the circumstances from Elk and the surroundings.

「Well, it's fine as it's your choice. Why don't you do it here?」

「.....」

Though he was silent for a few seconds, he could no longer endure Elks look

and let out a sigh.

「I'm not very good at stripping materials. And because it's a high rank monster, I don't want to fail and have to do it carefully.」

「Kukuku~. I see, I see. No wonder Rei is a G rank adventurer. Moreover, for it to be stripping materials.....」

Though Elk leaked a smile at Rei's embarrassed look, it disappeared with his next words.

「It's a good opportunity. I'll teach you the knack of stripping materials. Come on, take them out, take them out.」

「Wait, dad!? What will happen to our rewards if we spend time with Rei here!」

「That's, you would have to go with Min. There shouldn't be any more enemies.」

「But!」

TLN: I really don't see why you're complaining here Rhodes 😊

As Rhodes was going to argue further, Min tapped his shoulder.

「.....It's pointless Rhodes. Elk won't stop when he's like this. Let's just go by ourselves. Fortunately, as Elk said, there aren't any more Orcs.」

Sending off Rhodes like that, Rei immediately took the Orcs out of the Misty Ring so that Elk could give him tips for stripping materials.

# Chapter 41

That day, the noble who ruled the city of Gimuru, Margrave Rowlocks, received a rude awakening.

There had been a report that Orcs had built a village about a day's walking distance from the city of Gimuru, because of that preparations for battle were made and the Knights readied. There was also the force of able adventurers who were participating in the Orc subjugation force. As the routine work of a feudal lord, it was necessary to process the following documents. And it was in this busy few days he received a letter from the Imperial Capital.

His only salvation was that the busy period would only last until the Orc subjugation was completed. If he was told he had to spend a month under these conditions, there was a possibility Margrave Rowlocks would have given up his job.

At the end of such a busy day, the fatigued Margrave Rowlocks, who had been sleeping like a log, was abruptly woken by a kon~ kon~, ton~ ton~, gon~ gon~ sound as the knocks on the door got louder. He forced his eyes open from the sound.

Margrave Rowlocks got up from his bed and looked around.

It was still dark in the room, he judged that it may not even have been a few hours since he slept.

「What on earth.」

Still, because he was the feudal lord, he put on a robe on top of his bedclothes and opened the door.

On the other side of the door was his secretary, who should have been just as tired as him. However, unlike him, fatigue and sleepiness couldn't be seen on his face. If anything, he had an expression of happiness.

「Lord-sama, I'm sorry for disturbing your night's rest. However, I wanted to inform you as soon as possible.」

「I don't mind, what happened?」

「A little while ago, several members from the Orc subjugation force returned.」

Though Margrave Rowlocks had a bad feeling after hearing the words ‘several people’, it disappeared as the next words came from the secretary’s mouth.

「From the report the people gave to the guild, the Orc subjugation seems to have been completed safely.」

「Really?」

「Yes. Several people came back to report the completion of the request as soon as possible, but.....」

「What’s wrong?」

「Because they rescued two women who had been captured in the Orc village, they have hinted that they would like to be left to rest peacefully as much as possible.」

「.....I see.」

A woman who had been caught in an Orc village. The treatment they would have received could easily be imagined.

「Those two, give them a warm welcome. Give them as much support as we can give.」

「I understand.」

「Even so, safely crushed the Orc village.....did they.」

Margrave Rowlocks let out a sigh of relief. If the subjugation force had been defeated by the Orcs, there would be hardly any combat force left in the city that could oppose the Orcs. If he contacted the Imperial Capital, and a force from the Nobles faction or the King’s faction was dispatched, there would be various disadvantages at a later date.

(If I think about it, that letter may be convenient.)

Thinking of the letter that had arrived during the day, he immediately shook his head.

At any rate, he could rejoice that the city of Gimuru’s adventurers were able to defeat the Orcs.

「So then, what was leading the Orcs? Was it a rare species?」

Recently around here, there had been an increase in reports of the discovery

of rare species at the frontier, including the city of Gimuru. The most recent story was that of Goblins led by rare species attacking travelers and merchants passing along the highway.

(.....That reminds me, I haven't heard stories of Goblin attacks for the past few days. Did they realise we've become wary and moved to a different place?)

TLN: *cough cough cough*

Indeed, as expected, the thought that the adventurer who had brought the Griffon had taken out the rare species never crossed Margrave Rowlocks' mind.

However, the secretary answered the question that he had asked.

「No. According to the story from the adventurers who came back, it seems to have been an Orc King leading the Orcs.」

「.....What? Did I mishear that?」

The Margrave Rowlocks' secretary shook his head from side to side.

「You didn't mishear. It was an Orc King leading the Orcs. The presence of many high ranking Orcs such as Orc Archers, Orc Mages and Orc Generals were also confirmed. Moreover, the number of Orcs exceeded the original information's 50, in fact there was well over 100 Orcs.」

「Wait. Wait, wait, wait. There was a large number of high ranking species in addition to an Orc King. Moreover, there were over a hundred? And they were able to win?」

From the report given by the guild master at the beginning, there were only about 30 people in the Orc subjugation force, it wasn't a number that could against over a hundred Orcs.

「From the story I heard, the A rank party Axe of the Thunder God was the main combat force and defeated the majority of the Orcs.」

「Ah, I see. That reminds me, I had heard that Axe of the Thunder God were participating. Sorry, my brain hasn't seemed to have woken up yet.」

「It can't be helped. In the past few days, Lord-sama has been wrestling with a mountain of documents.」

「Ah, wait a moment. Then, did Axe of the Thunder God defeat the Orc King?」

His secretary frowned his eyebrows slightly at that question.

The contents of the story he had heard were unbelievable and he was lost as to whether he should tell his boss.

「.....Is it different?」

Margrave Rowlocks, who felt his secretary's state, asked again doubtfully. And as if making up his mind, his secretary answered.

「That is, I'm still not sure as this is merely what the adventurers who returned earlier were saying.....」

「Don't be so wordy, just say it clearly.」

「.....A G rank adventurer defeated the Orc King in single combat.」

「Impossible! Speaking of that, isn't the Orc King a B rank monster!? A G rank adventurer.....no, wait a moment. Is there no mistake it was a G rank adventurer?」

「That is the information I have received.」

Hearing the words from his secretary, the figure of Rei floated into his head. At the very least, he didn't know of any newly registered adventurers of G rank that could possibly defeat an Orc King aside from Rei. Rather than that, from the information of the list of members in the Orc subjugation force, the only person with such a low rank, G rank, was him. But even so.

(If it was the Griffon, who is a higher rank, who defeated the Orc King, I could still understand. But, according to the report, the Orc King was defeated in single combat. In other words, this person, Rei, has the capability to defeated a B rank monster by himself?)

To Margrave Rowlocks, his interest and importance of Rei had risen again.

As expected, his drowsiness was blown away after hearing the news and he gave out a list of things to do one after the other.

Though sleep was originally important to let the body rest, Margrave Rowlocks was presently in a state of excitement, joy and relief. With such a variety of emotion, it wasn't possible to sleep at all.

「So then, when does the main group of the subjugation force return?」

「As there's also the cleaning up of the Orc village, they will be back the day after tomorrow at earliest.」

「The day after tomorrow.....Okay, then send a message to the subjugation force the morning the day after tomorrow. When they return, there will be a parade.」

「A parade? However, won't that use up a lot of the budget.....」

「I understand your worries. However, the information that an Orc village had been built a day's walking distance from the Gimuru has already spread around the city. In order to dispel the unease, we have to make it flashy.」

The Orc village subjugation force. They set off with large group of 30 people or so, including an A rank party. It was impossible for it to not cause a commotion, the matter of the Orc village had already spread through downtown. And above all, as the information has already been disclosed through the adventurers guild, it was to prevent rumors about the Orc village becoming crazy rumors and causing the people to fall into confusion. That said, though the scenario of reckless people buying up all the goods from the merchants in the city did not occur, he still felt uneasy about it. If that was the case, Margrave Rowlocks judged that it was necessary to meet with the subjugation force that annihilated the Orc village to remove the anxiety.

「Then.....there must be a hero.」

「A hero, is it?」

The secretary replied in response to the Margrave Rowlocks' mutter.

「Ah. It's the person that can be called the symbol of the Orc subjugation force.」

At that moment, two names crossed his mind. One was Elk, the leader of the party Axe of the Thunder God and a go getter from the city of Gimuru. Margrave Rowlocks had met with him several times for work and roughly understood what kind of person he was. It was expected that Elk would understand his thinking regarding the celebration.

The other person was the one who defeated the Orc King, Rei. He had yet to meet him directly and had only heard from rumors and information that had been written in documents.

(Should I bring up the figure of Rei as a hero as soon as possible? .....No, it's dangerous as I still don't know what his personality is like. If he has a



troublesome character, I may be forced to leave the city of Gimuru if it ends badly. If I consider that the symbol of the Orc subjugation is for the residents of the city, then Elk, who is the leader of the prominent party Axe of the Thunder God, might be better than Rei, who just registered with the guild.)

「Elk, it is.」

「Ha? Ah, no. I'm sorry. Elk it is. I will arrange it at once.」

His secretary thought for a moment about why it wasn't Rei who was said to have defeated the Orc King, but came to the same conclusions as his boss and bowed his head before immediately leaving the room.

His words meant that aside from coordinating with the guild, he would also collect any new information.

As Margrave Rowlocks saw off the back of the figure, he sat down on the bed in his bedroom with a thud.

「Not only is he accompanied by a A rank monster, Griffon, it seems he also has the ability to defeat a B rank monster, Orc King, by himself. If you add on the ability of the monster, Griffon, you could judge his ability to be equivalent to an A rank party. He has that ability and is still rank G.....no, wait. Rank G? I see.」

Glancing around, what came to his mind was the letter that arrived yesterday. The letter asked for assistance with a certain problem.....close to the middle, some requirements were given. Adventurers ranking up to rank D were requested.

「Even if the symbol of the Orc subjugation force was transferred to Elk, there's no changing the fact that Rei defeated the Orc King. Then if he ranked up to Rank E in one go, with his achievements, there won't be any problems with immediately taking the rank up test to rank D.」

Coincidentally, the opinion of Margrave Rowlocks matched that of Hobbes, who was leading the subjugation force.

「There's only disadvantages for the city of Gimuru to leave an A rank equivalent person at G rank.」

Half muttering to persuade himself, he suddenly noticed that the room had

become brighter.

Apparently, while he had been lost in thought, the sun had already risen.

In this way, Margrave Rowlocks' busy day started again. However, the fatigue on his face that he had yesterday was all gone, rather, he made his preparations for the parade and started his feudal lord's work happily.

Two days later, several carriages pulled by war horses advanced to the city of Gimuru along the highway.

「A victory parade, is it. And I'll be leading it?」

One of the carriages. Elk's unhappy voice echoed in the room where 5 people, Hobbes, Rei and Axe of the Thunder God, were present.

The reason he was grumbling was because of the parade that he was told off by the messenger who arrived earlier. If it was only that much then Elk might not have been grumbling, however, the contents of the message said that Elk, who didn't like formal events, was to lead the subjugation force from the city entrance to the guild.

「There's no helping it, the story about the Orc village has already spread throughout the city. Margrave Rowlocks wants to dispel all feelings of anxiety.」

Min, who was sitting opposite of Elk, told him to give up after informing him of her thoughts.

「But you know? I don't like being exaggerated.」

「I know that for sure, but your likes and dislikes compared to dispelling the anxiety of the residents. Which is more important?」

「Guh~.....even so, why me, why not Rei. Anyway, wasn't he the one who defeated the Orc King?」

「Don't be so unreasonable. Your name is well known as part of the A rank party Axe of the Thunder God, Rei only just registered with the guild. It's not necessary to think who the residents would accept being paraded. .... Moreover, if Rei doesn't mind, he can be the spokesman.」

Rei shook his neck to the left and right at Hobbes' words.

「I don't like such troublesome things. That's right.....if it's Axe of the Thunder

God, how about you let Rhodes lead? The person who will succeed Axe of the Thunder God, something like that.」

「Oi, are you trying to make me the sacrifice!?!」

Rhodes said in a voice that showed it would be too unpleasant if he had to take the lead.

Though he didn't dislike the event that his parents were involved in, he didn't want to participate in it himself.

「You, calm down. Give up Elk. See, the city has already come into view. We'll stop to form into single file.」

As Hobbes said so, he sounded the Magic Whistle to stop all the carriages.

# Chapter 42

The voices of cheering resounded through the city.

An Orc village had appeared in the immediate vicinity of the city they lived in. It was natural that there would be a parade for the subjugation force that went to defeat it.

「Hey, look at the person sitting at the drivers seat of the first carriage. That's the leader of the A rank party Axe of the Thunder God, it's Elk」

「I know. ....Rather, hey, over there!」

While nodding to the words of the man next to him, an unexpected existence entered his eyes.

An eagle's upper body, a lions lower body and huge wings on it's back. In other words, it was a .....

「Griffon!?!」

They had gone to subjugate Orcs, why had they brought something even more brutal back? Although the question entered his mind for a moment and he almost ran away on reflex.....the nape of his neck was caught by the man next to him who had known Elk.

「Hey, what are you doing. We must escape fast!」

「Calm down. It won't attack people because that Griffon is a tamed monster.」

「Haa? A tamed Griffon? Was that a joke!?!」

「It's no joke. Think carefully about it. If that Griffon were a normal monster, why would it be walking next to the carriage together.」

「.....」

If you thought about it carefully, it was possible to understand that the man was right. However, the presence of the Griffon was to overwhelming.

「You, what do you know?」

「Ah. Have you really not heard of the story about the rank D party Claws of the Hawk getting beaten up in front of the guild by rookie who just registered?」

「Now that you say it, I remember hearing such a story.....」

「To tell the truth, I was at that place. So, I mean, the rookie that beat them up had tamed a Griffon. That's the Griffon.」

「.....Really?」

「Ah. That Griffon can also walks around town quite frequently. Try looking around carefully. Can you see anyone running away?」

As the man heard that, he looked around, most residents were certainly not trying to run away. On the contrary, they seemed to be explaining to those who were trying to run from the sight of the Griffon. So, like himself.

Instead, there were people among the residents looking at the parade that were throwing dried meat at the Griffon.

And the Griffon was splendidly catching the flying dried meat in his beak, swallowing it as it was, he was delighted and gave a happy『Gururururu~』cry.

「.....What?」

「A, ahh. Even then, a rookie taming a Griffon.....I can't imagine it.」

「I also thought that at first. It's probably also the same for the people who saw the Griffon walking through town for the first time. However, I haven't heard any stories of that Griffon actually harming anyone. In addition, it has an amazing popularity with the street stall merchants who sell food. ....Well, it's also the owner of the Griffon who buys their goods like crazy regardless of the expense.」

「Those merchants are amazing.....」

If it were him, he would likely have run away if a Griffon came as a customer. Thinking so.....he suddenly noticed something.

「Hey, wait a minute. Didn't the owner of the Griffon just register with the guild? Did he participate in the Orc subjugation force?」

「Now that you said that, it's likely.....Well, maybe the Griffon was there to deal with the Orcs?」

「Ah, I see. ....That's great isn't it. Though I don't have a Griffon, if I became an adventurer by taming a strong monster, I can just leave the combat to the monster and profit.」

「Idiot. Do you think he can only tame monsters?」

While smiling wryly, he lightly knocked the guy's head.

『Kya~, look this way Onē-sama!』

At the same time, they heard such voices.

「Ouch, go easy on me.....So, who is that?」

While looking at the appearance of some girls who were raising a shrill voice at a woman in the parade, he asked the man next to him.

「That's certainly.....the C rank party Scorching Wind, led by Milein. As you can see, a lot of the talented younger people treat her an older sister.」

「Onē-sama, is it.」

In this way, the Orc subjugation force parade continued until they arrived at the guild.

「Ah, I'm tired.」

Moving through downtown in full view during the parade, Elk gave a deep sigh as he finally got to the front of the guild and got off the carriage.

Contrary to his energy after fighting against Orc all night, fatigue could be seen carved into his face.

「Kukuku~. It's hard being popular.」

Hobbes gave a wry smile at Elk's state as he also got down from the carriage.

「Ke, you must have been comfortable being inside the carriage.」

「There's no helping it, because only two people can sit in the driver's seat. The residents of the city who see you, the leader of Axe of the Thunder God, will no longer be frightened by the threat of Orcs.」

「.....I know. But can't I complain? To begin with, this is out of character for me.」

「There's no other choice. After all, it was a direct nomination personally from Margrave Rowlocks, the lord of the city of Gimuru.」

「Fun~!」

As Hobbes turned away from Elk's childish face, he spoke up to the other members of the subjugation force who were coming down from the other carriages.

「Everyone, you've worked hard. Thanks to you and the parade, the Orc threat

has passed for the city. Well, for now, we will disband here. You don't need to worry about the reward, you will be able to receive it from the guild reception desk by tomorrow. With that, the proof of subjugation parts from the Orc can be sold at five silver coins instead of the usual three silver coins, as said before. In the same way, high ranking species can also be sold at higher prices. However, remember that selling at that price is only because of the reward for the Orc subjugation.」

Everyone nodded to those words, afterwards, everyone scattered to the tavern, the inn, the weapons shops and to second hand dealer shops.

As for Rei, as he was going to go to the nearby dining area and food stalls with Set to fill their bellies.....

「Rei, could you stay for a moment. We have to talk.」

He was stopped by Hobbes.

「Guru~?」

What's wrong? After stroking Set's head and petting him lightly, he turned his eyes to Hobbes.

「Didn't you say the rewards would be given tomorrow?」

「That's for the other people. No, you will also receive your reward tomorrow but that doesn't matter.....I would like to talk with you about your rank for a moment.」

Though he seemed to think a few seconds about those words, he immediately took out several sandwiches from the Misty Ring and petted Set's head.

「Sorry, I have a little business to do. Eat these while waiting at the usual spot Set.」

「Guru~.....」

Leaving Set, who was slightly dissatisfied, Rei and Hobbes entered the guild.

Set who saw off their backs, gave a small cry and went to his usual spot with a sandwich in his mouth.

「Ah, Rei-san, Welcome back.」

「Rei-kun? It's good that you're safe.」

As Rei and Hobbes entered the guild.....or rather, seeing Rei, Lenora and Kenny called out with happy, smiling faces.

「Sorry, but I have to talk with Rei. You can enjoy your reunion later.」

Hobbes said that to the two people and went up to the second floor in the guild, Rei followed after raising his hand lightly in greeting.

As Kenny saw off their backs, she was genuinely relieved and let out a big sigh.

「Ah, that's good. Rei-kun was fine.」

「Yes, though that's certainly something good.....」

「Lenora?」

「Orcs, weren't there quite a large number people in the subjugation force? Though a detailed explanation will be given later, I'm sure that some didn't make it back.」

「.....It can't be helped if it can't be helped. There is a inherent risk in being an adventurer and they knew it when they registered with the guild.」

「Well, though that is so.....the number of faces I'll recognise will drop a little.」

Lenora let out a small sigh.

To begin with, fighting was assumed to happen for adventurers working with monster subjugation, exploring labyrinths or merchant escorts. Though there are also gathering requests, most of them can be easily done by the people themselves without the need to post a request. As for the main requests for the guild, they were mainly things that were too dangerous for the client to do themselves.

Since such danger is present, naturally, there would be adventurers who would die doing their work. Though that was understandable, Lenora still couldn't completely accept it.

「Come now, in any case, didn't most of the people return? Then be a little bit more happy. It's because of that that your body is so poor.」

Poor, though Lenora twitched at those words, she feigned calmness and started to speak.

「I'm not particularly porr. Normal, I'm just normal. Average. I think it's better



than a body that is used to curry favour with men.」

「.....Ara~, I wonder who that is?」

「Well, I'm not pointing out to anyone in particular, do you have any ideas?」

「That's right, absolutely. That's why they say that women with small chests are also small minded people. Mm, mm, I feel sorry for Rei-kun who has to be partly under such a woman. If I were you, I would stick to him and talk about and do various things and whatnot.」

「Kenny, really, you!」

In this way, the two people started playing around like this as usual. However, the sad atmosphere which covered Lenora earlier had disappeared and had returned to the usual Lenora.

「Please sit.」

It was the same room where the story of the Orc subjugation force had been heard. Right not, Rei was faced opposite to Hobbes.

Because the first time he entered the room was with the Orc subjugation force, Rei felt that with only two people, the meeting room was wide and dull.

After sitting in the offered chair and facing each for several tens of seconds, Hobbes spoke up to break the silence.

「There's various debriefing to be done after this.....even with regards to Dark Night's Star. But to say it bluntly, your rank will go up to rank E tomorrow.」

「E is it. Even it went up, I thought it would surely only go up to F.」

「Hmph. Given your achievements, E rank isn't possibly enough. Transporting supply goods, Set guarding during the journey, executing your role as a mobile unit during the night attack. And above all, defeating the Orc King. With this many achievements listed, there's no way you would only go up one rank. At any rate, if you were C or D and not G rank then maybe. In addition.....」

Hobbes hesitated to say something at the end. Rei who saw that had a wry smile in his mind.

(Hush money regarding Dark Night's Star.....is that it.)

In the situation that could be considered a crisis for the city of Gimuru, he had attacked an allied party for his own reasons. If you think about how this could

lead to a poor reputation and a loss of trust with the adventurer guild, Hobbes' actions couldn't be considered strange.

「Well, because it seems to be common to apply to the guild for a rank up after handling a certain number of requests, it is less troublesome to jump over multiple ranks at once, I have no complaints.」

「Ah, I'm glad you said that. Because you'll be going to take the rank up test to D rank in the near future, please keep that in mind.」

「.....What?」

Rei asked again, not believing Hobbes' words. As if he had expected that response, Hobbes repeated it again.

「I said, therefore, you will be receiving a rank up test in the near future.」

「I see, the guild is quite generous. Do they want me to rank up three ranks in one go?」

「Well, something like that. I mean, when thinking about your ability tame and Set, your ability is closer to B rank.....I hope that will convince you of your D rank.」

「That's just what I hoped for.....is that okay?」

「It's fine. In the first place, it's strange that a person that can beat an Orc King one on one is in G rank.」

「.....I understand. So when is the rank up test?」

「Who knows, it's difficult for me to say. It's something for the upper echelon and officials to decide and not me.」

Though he said that, Hobbes has the feeling that the date for the field examination wasn't far away. Everyone knows that the employees of the adventurer guild are always short on manpower, above all.....

Hobbes thought about the letter in his chest pocket. The letter was received from the messenger from Gimuru as the Orc subjugation force was returning. There were words praising the Orc subjugation force and information about the parade from just before. And it was also written to promote Rei to rank E and introduce him to the rank up test as soon as he got to the guild.

(Even though I let several people with information leave earlier, this is too fast. Rei's ability is certainly B rank.....and would be comparable to the poorer A

ranks. However, this move is.....)

Hobbes himself had written about the rank improvement to rank E in the letter he had sent back to Gimuru, I was also intending to propose the rank up test to rank D to the upper echelon. However, he had only judged so because he had been in the same request as Rei, he hadn't thought that the upper echelon, who hadn't even been debriefed, would be making a move so quickly. In other words.....

(The guild master and the upper echelon have an interest in Rei. ....No, thinking about it, is it the lord?)

Though originally, he wouldn't be able to assert that that was possible, Rei was accompanied by an A rank monster, Griffon. Thinking about it, he couldn't say for sure that it was impossible.

「Well, anyway, I understand the information. So it's a good thing for me to take the rank D test so soon?」

「Ah, that's the intention.」

Nodding to Hobbes words, Rei stood up from his seat.

Seeing him off, Hobbes felt that Rei would make a pleasant disturbance in the city of Gimuru.